

G7 leaders hear call for stimulus to world trade; but no movement in sight over farm subsidies

Major presses for global arms sales register

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major opened the G7 summit in London yesterday by appealing to his fellow world leaders to agree common principles to curb irresponsible arms sales.

The prime minister urged them to turn the United Nations into a more effective organisation, both in monitoring arms sales and in offering humanitarian assistance in times of natural disaster.

He impressed upon the representatives of the seven leading industrialised nations the importance of giving a positive signal on the Uruguay round of Gatt talks, saying that it was a vital stimulus to world trade.

The summit discussions appeared, however, to be floundering somewhat in the early stages. While nobody quibbled with the prime minister's remarks about the importance of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the French and Germans have indicated no readiness to back down on the question of agricultural subsidies. And although the British have won some support for their proposed UN register of arms sales, it was admitted last night that some countries have still to be won over.

The G7 leaders have also

failed to form any conclusions about how much assistance should be given to President Gorbachev in response to his appeal for economic aid. Mr Major said yesterday that the delegates should not let their concern for the Soviet Union overshadow central and Eastern Europe. He said it was vital to provide these countries access to markets, otherwise it would be pointless to give them economic support.

British government sources also said last night that a meeting of finance ministers had agreed that the second half of the year would see the resumption of "strong world growth". Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, said that the Bush administration was very pleased by recent cuts in interest rates in Japan and some European countries.

As the heads of state and government began their foreign policy talks, officials tried to lower Soviet expectations before Mr Gorbachev's arrival tomorrow. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, is understood to be emphasising the political risks of sending the Soviets away empty-handed. British government sources insisted, however, that the host country would not sign debt restructuring deals for a country with the gold reserves and natural resources enjoyed by the Soviet Union.

Yevgeny Primakov, Mr Gorbachev's special envoy, last night defended the Soviet economic reform plan. He told Channel Four News that Britain had taken 13 years to privatise 17 per cent of its state industries "and you want us to do it just like that in our country. I don't think it's serious".

He said that efforts were being made to reduce military expenditure but the present levels were tied to adequate defence. "Don't think that we want to go back with money and an agreement. We don't expect a one-time accord. This is the beginning of a process for us," he said.

The Soviet call for a stabilisation fund of up to \$12 billion (about £7.31 billion) also received a cool reception from the American delegation.

British sources said no money should be given before macroeconomic reforms were implemented, including increased privatisation, legal reforms and the revision of property rights.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said: "Nobody wants to send President Gorbachev away discouraged because we have all benefited so much from the process of reform and want it to continue. But equally I don't think anyone wants to start writing cheques at this meeting."

Mr Major told his counterparts at the summit that the UN should be given new prominence in acting as a world watchdog, identifying and preventing conflicts. He believes that the security council proved during the Gulf war that it could take on a more pro-active role.

When British spokesmen were asked how the UN could be strengthened, they said that there could be a more rigorous use of existing provisions in the UN charter, which allows the organisation to examine any dispute that is likely to lead to a wider conflict. Britain is putting forward Mr Major's plan for a UN register of arms sales and officials are working with Herr Kohl to strengthen UN disaster relief operations by the appointment of a disaster coordinator.



Queening at Kew: the wives of five of the Group of Seven leaders outside the Palm House at Kew Gardens in London yesterday. From the left are Hannelore Kohl, Milla Mulroney, Norma Major, Barbara Bush and Sachiko Kishi with her interpreter

Last orders at the Hard Iraq cafe

The last convoy of allied troops left northern Iraq yesterday but will still watch from a distance. Andrew Finkel reports

The curtain fell on the northern Iraq yesterday as the Hard Iraq Cafe, alias the mess hall at allied HQ in Zakho, took its last orders.

By 2.30pm the American flag was lowered. By 5pm the senior commanders walked the last leg of the journey by foot into Turkey. And then the allies were gone. The allied commander, the United States Major-General Jay Garner, followed the last 3,000 American and European troops to cross the border. He crossed the bridge into Turkey at 1355 GMT, symbolically ending the occupation.

American military police in a Humvee, among the last troops at the Iraqi customs house on the border, listened to a Guns 'n' Roses rendition of Bob Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door." American F16 and A-10 aircraft screeched over the security zone as the troops left.

The final 3,170 allied troops pulled out by plane, helicopter and in long convoys of trucks that weaved through the 3,600-square-mile security zone the allies established on April 18.

Allied commanders promised to return if the Iraqi government threatens its people. "I think we have made it clear to the government in Baghdad we have a deep interest in the peace throughout Iraq and we are prepared to take certain measures when that peace is violated, and that applies throughout Iraq," said Lieutenant-General John Shalikashvili, commander of the allied operation to save the Kurds. Continued on page 24, col 6

Patchy evidence, page 10
Desert Storm II, page 14

Labour prepares to oust jailed MP in new purge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership last night prepared to drop Terry Fields, the Liverpool Broadgreen MP, as a parliamentary candidate at the next election and unleashed its biggest purge of Militant.

It also suspended the Birkenhead Labour party, which had tried to deselect its MP, Frank Field.

Party leaders faced accusations of McCarthyism from the far left as 62 members who worked or campaigned for the rebel Militant-backed candidate in the Walton by-election were summarily suspended, to face almost certain expulsion.

At the same time Labour's organisation committee agreed, at the urging of Neil Kinnock, to a nine-day investigation of the "activities and political affiliations" of Mr Fields to determine whether he has breached party rules.



Fields: faces move by Labour to drop him

Results of the enquiry, to be conducted by Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organisation, will be put to next Wednesday's national executive committee meeting. If it finds against Mr Fields, currently serving a 60-day prison sentence for refusing to pay his poll tax, he would be suspended prior to his case being heard before the disciplinary national constitutional committee, and action would be set in hand to find a new candidate for Broadgreen in case of an autumn general election.

The actions against Mr Fields and the 62 supporters of Lesley Mahmood, the broad left Walton candidate, were denounced in the committee meeting, and later outside, by Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover. He said: "I do not believe in witchhunts. I do not believe in McCarthyism. Today, dissent is ruled out. Compassion is ruled out. I think what they are after is a party of clones."

A move to drop Mr Fields would be seen as the culmination of Mr Kinnock's eight-year battle against Militant. Mr Fields has been an MP for eight years and his presence on the Labour benches has always been exploited by Tory MPs as proof that Militant remains a threat.

It is understood that evidence against Mr Fields to be put forward by Mrs Gould will include his Commons speech on June 24 in which he said: "Our programme for the future is the nationalisation of the commanding heights of

the economy." He was not speaking of Labour's programme, because that is not Labour policy. It is, however, the policy of Militant.

Mr Kinnock spoke last night of his contempt for the irresponsibility of those who could afford to pay the poll tax and had not done so, thus placing heavier burdens on poorer people.

The 62 include Jim Hollinshead, deputy convenor of the GMB general union (branch 8) that represents 1,200 Liverpool city council workers. The evidence against them is based on statements by MPs and party officials affirming that they were observed assisting the Mahmood campaign. Photographs were taken of some suspects.

The committee also endorsed Frank Field, victor of a re-run reselection battle in Birkenhead, but suspended the Birkenhead party, including freezing its bank accounts, after complaints to party headquarters.

BCCI loss to councils over £80m

By DOUGLAS BROOM

THE level of confirmed losses suffered by local authorities from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International rose to £80.6 million yesterday.

Thirty-one councils and public utilities have confirmed that they have suffered losses although officials co-ordinating rescue attempts expect the number to rise to 45. Among the latest was Rochester on Medway council, Kent, where councillors said that they had invested £4 million in BCCI and Fareham, in Hampshire, which had £500,000 invested.

The full picture will become clearer when representatives of the affected councils meet in London on Thursday to consider what action to take and it seems certain that losses will top £100 million. Ian Continued on page 20, col 1

Resignation call, page 20
Worldwide hunt, page 21

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Superpowers set to clear nuclear hurdle

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE last obstacle to an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to reduce strategic nuclear arsenals by a third could be resolved tomorrow.

President Bush and President Gorbachev, meeting privately after the G7 summit, will attempt to give the final push towards an agreement which has so far taken nine years of superpower negotiations. However Mr Bush emphasised yesterday that the remaining disagreement, over the definition of new missile systems, was important.

Asked if the final issue could be overcome in time for a summit in Moscow, Mr Bush said: "The experts are going to be talking about it before I see President Gorbachev here. There's a lot of interest in that." James Baker,

his secretary of state, who has just spent four days closeted with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, his Soviet counterpart, in Washington, warned that the arms treaty "deals with the strategic balance of the next 15 to 20 years and we're determined to get it right".

The US wanted each missile system to have a given number of re-entry vehicles, but the Soviet Union wanted to reduce the number of re-entry vehicles per system and leave open the opportunity to increase the number of missiles.

In an interview with the French radio, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the G7 summit would provide an chance to hammer out a common approach on arms sales in the wake of the Gulf war.

Leading article, page 15

New highway code: don't sleep and drive

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are to investigate a problem for which there is no legislation but which could be as serious a cause of road accidents, including deaths, as drink-driving: sleep.

In six road deaths are drink-related, according to figures from the Department of Transport. But ministers are being asked to examine figures which show that drowsiness at the wheel causes more than one in four crashes. Of those, 83 per cent resulted in deaths.

Much of the drowsiness could be caused by motorists taking sleeping pills, anti-depressants or anti-anxiety

prescriptions without realising the "hangover" effects, which could be greater than drinking more than the legal limit of alcohol.

Police are increasingly worried that drinking alcohol is only the most immediate and easily recognisable way in which a driver's mood and reflexes are changed.

Seven Midlands police forces plan to question every driver involved in a motorway accident in August in an effort to find out why some drivers crash at the quietest times of the day when roads are almost empty and the risks should be low.

The answers could help scientists confirm their fears that drugs such as anti-histamines, used by hundreds of

thousands of people at this time of year to combat hay fever, are among many which could impair the ability of drivers on motorways where split-second decisions are needed.

Professor Ian Hindmarch, leading a study at the human psychopharmacology department of Surrey university, said last night that a driver tested the day after using a sleeping pill prescription may take an extra 120 milliseconds to brake from 70mph, therefore travelling an extra ten to 12 feet.

He said: "We have a situation where drinking and driving is checked by legislation but, in spite of the evidence, we have no controls over the drugs taken by people who then go

out on the roads." Professor Hindmarch also warned that the government's health reforms may encourage doctors to prescribe cheaper drugs which have not overcome the "hangover" effect.

The professor advocates adopting a system used in The Netherlands of putting a red warning triangle on such drugs so that motorists know they are at risk if they take them before driving.

The Home Office and the Department of Transport both said that there were no plans to check on the effects of drugs on driving. They indicated only that police would be able to charge a motorist affected by drugs with reckless driving if necessary.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ACTING UP

Vanessa Redgrave acted unreasonably in sacking her personal secretary who has been awarded almost £9,000 Page 3

PRICED TO FIT

Is this model wearing a top price, top designer creation or a cut price version by the same designer? For the answer turn to page 12

CUT TO HOLLYWOOD

Alan Parker is one of many British directors finding a welcome in Hollywood's hillsides. No wonder, says Geoff Brown Page 13

TIMES LAW

Sir Frederick Lawton argues that some aspects of legal reform, such as the marketing of services, are of dubious value Page 27

IN THE SWING

Nick Faldo, the golfing giant with a matchless mechanical swing, has a human side to confound his critics Page 35

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Synod urges Nescafe boycott in Third World milk dispute

MORE than a million churchgoers were urged yesterday to boycott Nescafe in a Church of England protest aimed at the manufacturers Nestlé. The General Synod, meeting in York, called on Nestlé to end free and subsidised supplies of breast milk substitutes to third world hospitals and maternity wards.

The synod also urged tighter controls on exports of bottle-feeding products to developing countries. Nestlé said that the boycott would not seriously affect sales and that the action was "unfortunate".

Consumer action against Nescafe is being led by Baby Milk Action, a pressure group sup-

ported by charities such as Oxfam, Save the Children and Christian Aid, which inspired the motion from the Leicester diocese.

Wendy Green, a civil servant from Leicester and a lay member of the synod, said the aim was not to ban sales of breast milk substitute but to stop companies promoting bottle-feeding. She accused Nestlé of breaching a World Health Organisation code that says the marketing of the substitute needs special treatment because of the risks involved in its unnecessary use.

According to a recent United Nations children's fund report, reversing the decline of breast-

A General Synod debate heard that an increase in breast-feeding among mothers in developing countries could save one million babies a year. The aim is to stop companies promoting bottle-feeding. Ruth Gledhill reports

feeding in the developing world could save at least a million children a year. Campaigners argue that breast milk substitutes fed in the early hours of a child's life can make it difficult for the mothers to revert to breast-feeding. Once she leaves hospital, the baby's nutrition is affected by poor water supplies and poverty.

The Rev Susan Cole-King, former senior health adviser to the UN children's fund in New York, accused Nestlé of exploiting loopholes in the world health

breast milk substitute marketing code, adopted in 1981. "Like sanctions in South Africa, unless we see evidence in a change of practice, the extra pressure which a boycott would impose is in fact necessary."

Two Nestlé observers sat through the debates. Ralph Clayton, Nestlé's UK manager of corporate affairs, said: "I do not believe that this will have a material effect on our sales. It is up to people to make up their own minds." Thad Jackson, director

of issue management at the company's headquarters in Washington DC, said: "We are not breaking the code." Nestlé's third world sales of breast milk substitute were less than 1 per cent of the total, he added.

The company supplies maternity hospitals with free breast milk substitutes in about 25 third world countries, but has withdrawn supplies from Thailand, the Ivory Coast and Guatemala. "We found other producers came in and filled the gap very quickly,

Mr Jackson said. "The code very clearly allows free supplies in hospitals. We understand that supply can be abused. We have been trying to get a consensus from third world countries on now we can change this."

"It is unfortunate that the church has decided to vote now because what we need is their support. We want the church to work with us when we go to governments and ask them to redress this issue."

Many clergy would willingly accept a modest reduction in their pension to help finance a further grant of £1 million to the Church Urban Fund from the church commissioners, synod was told.

Alastair Black, of Eppingham, Surrey, protested against the commissioner's decision not to give the fund a further grant this year. "We believe a false message has been given by the commissioners on the priorities the church should adopt in a time of mission," he said.

Last year's high inflation rates has forced the church to raise the cost of its wedding and funeral services by more than it had planned. Synod yesterday agreed that the basic legal fees for the services should increase by 15 per cent from January. This means a rise of £9 for the wedding service to £24, and £4 for the funeral service to £29.

Army patrol loses secret reports on republicans

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE army and police in Northern Ireland yesterday issued an urgent appeal for the return of sensitive intelligence information lost by an army foot patrol, amid concern the material could fall into the hands of paramilitary groups.

In a statement issued through police in Belfast, the army disclosed what, at this stage, appears to be an embarrassing lapse by a soldier leading a patrol, who lost nine "photo-montages".

According to the statement, the montages, which are thought to consist of photographs and addresses of 88 republican suspects, were lost on the night of July 11-12 by a patrol in South Armagh. The statement did not disclose the location of the loss, but added that subsequent searches had failed to locate the material.

A military source said the cards had been mislaid during a patrol of rough country during which hedges and ditches were crossed. The soldier leading the group was said to have realised that the cards were missing, but after backtracking, the patrol was unable to find them. It is clear that the security forces are anxious that the montages do not fall into the wrong hands.

The police said that, in the light of the loss, appropriate

action had been taken, suggesting that those on the list had been alerted to the possibility that their personal safety might have been compromised.

The loss of the cards is believed to be the first incident of its kind since the conclusion in May last year of the enquiry by John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, into allegations of collusion between Loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces.

Much of Mr Stevens' report and recommendations concerned tightening-up procedures for the handling of sensitive intelligence information such as montages, to try to prevent them being passed to paramilitaries.

Since the enquiry, montages which are individually marked, have to be signed out by the senior member of any patrol.

Mr Stevens was called in to investigate after the Loyalist paramilitary Ulster Freedom Fighters said it had killed a republican activist after identifying him on security force documents handed over to it by a member of the security forces.

In Dublin, republican sources were quoted yesterday as saying two IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison ten days ago have now reached the Irish Republic.

The sources, described as "reliable", claimed Nessel Quinnell and Pearse McAuley, who scaled the perimeter wall before hijacking a car at gunpoint on July 7, were "safely in the republic".

The sources would not give any further details as to how or when the fugitives got into the country. The Irish police could not comment on the disclosure but are now expected to significantly step up their hunt for the men.

The report could not be independently confirmed. If true, it represents a further embarrassment to the British authorities who, after the break-out, launched a major hunt for the men and kept watch on all routes they might use to return to Ireland.

It is also possible, however, that republicans have circulated the story to try to protect their men who may still be lying low somewhere in London, waiting to leave the country or continue their alleged activities as part of an IRA cell on mainland Britain.

A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said the hunt would continue, adding that it was quite likely the report could be disinformation.

Baby sold for £2,000 returned to mother

A MOTHER who sold her day-old son for £2,000 under an illegal deal worked out in a public house had the child returned to her yesterday. The couple who bought the baby dropped their High Court case to obtain legal adoption and custody orders.

Their decision led to a ruling by Mrs Justice Booth that the boy, now 20 months and referred to as Baby C, should be rehabilitated with his real mother. She had struck a deal with the couple while she was pregnant and gave them her baby the day after he was born.

Giving judgment in open court after a private hearing last week, the judge said the couple heard through a relative in 1989 that an unmarried woman, aged 22, was pregnant with an unwanted baby. A meeting took place in a pub and a "complex and distasteful plan was devised", the judge said.

To side-step normal adoption procedures it was agreed that the man would pose as Baby C's real father. He would tell the adoption authorities that he was a long-distance lorry driver and that the baby was the result of an affair he had with the mother. The plan was to say that his wife was prepared to accept the baby.

The truth only emerged last September when the couple formally applied to adopt Baby C and the mother told an adoption official what had happened. The baby was made a ward of court.

The couple, who have another adopted child, gave up their claims on Baby C after most of the evidence had been heard last week. The judge said that the arrangement was illegal and the court could not possibly ratify it.

The real mother had two other children and lived with a man, although she was still unmarried. She now wanted the child back. He would be a disturbed boy, the judge said, but there was sufficient prospect of his being successfully rehabilitated with his natural mother for it to be attempted.

Inner-city teachers too soft, says Eggar

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS, parents and school governors are letting down children in inner-city schools by expecting too little of them, Tim Eggar, the education minister, said yesterday.

Announcing a £20 million scheme for schools which were prepared to show that they would use the money to raise standards in mathematics, reading, writing and simple science, Mr Eggar said that the fact of pupils coming from deprived homes was no excuse for poor teaching.

"The problem is not a lack of material advantage, although that may be real enough. There is often a history of under-achievement and so parents, and I am afraid teachers and school governors, often expect too little of pupils. Parents often do not push the schools or encourage the pupils, and some inner-city schools find it difficult to recruit governors."

Mr Eggar told a Leeds conference on further and higher education that some inner-city schools did achieve high standards but "more could and should". Too many lost sight of their main purpose, to educate their pupils. "I fear too many teachers in the inner cities emphasise 'caring' at the expense of attainment. Some teachers are prepared to let their pupils coast along, too easily accepting low standards of work."

Under the three-year scheme due to start next April, local authorities in 24 inner-city areas are being invited to submit "bold, innovative" plans aimed at raising standards and involving parents.

The government would meet 60 per cent of the costs, and local authorities the rest. The National Union of Teachers described the scheme as "pre-election window-dressing". It said: "To spend £12 million over three years is a drop in the ocean, given the lack of resources many schools are suffering."

The scheme is open to areas covered by eight government City Action teams: Leeds and Bradford, Nottingham, Leicester and Derby, Manchester and Salford, Newcastle and Tyne and Wear, Birmingham, London, Liverpool, and Cleveland.

Schools in 16 areas with inner-city task forces are also eligible: Bradford, Bristol, Cheltenham and Harehills in Leeds, Derby, East Birmingham, Foleshill and Highfield in Coventry, Granby and Toxteth in Liverpool, Harlepool, Middlesbrough, Moss Side and Hulme in Manchester, Nottingham, Wirral, and Deptford, North Peckham, Spitalfields and North Kensington in London.

Leading article, page 15



School's out: Tim Eggar, the education minister, visiting a Church of England school at Bradford yesterday

Speaker refuses to bow to the shipping lobby

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE strong lobby behind British shipping became the centre of an unprecedented parliamentary row last night when Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, refused to allow MPs to debate help for the ailing industry.

In spite of support from 170 MPs from all political parties, the Speaker indicated to the Commons that he was rejecting demands for discussion on

capital allowances to stimulate shipbuilding in Britain because of pressure by a "kind of mass lobby". He had been inundated by individual and often identical letters from MPs.

The Tory MP Sir Ian Gilmour described the Speaker's decision as perverse and regrettable. "He has given in to the government, which has exerted far greater pressure

than the shipping lobby," he added. The MPs supporting the lobby had pinned their hopes on a full debate on the "Sterling" amendment, named after Lord Sterling of Plaistow, president of the general council for British shipping, during the final stages of the finance bill.

When they realised that amendment had not been selected, two former ministers, Peter Shore and Sir Ian Gilmour, immediately protested. Sir Ian, the former defence secretary, complained that the Speaker had "misdirected himself".

But a senior Tory backbencher described the letters as "appalling" and said the shipping lobby had "shot itself in the foot".



Weatherill: inundated with letters from MPs

Reforms 'had no effect on drinking'

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE amount of alcohol people drink has changed little since reform of the licensing laws allowed public houses to open all day during the week and for longer on Sundays.

In spite of the reform introduced three years ago, afternoon drinking is an exception rather than the rule, according to a report published yesterday. Overall, men drink on average three times as much as women in a week, but among younger people, particularly 16-17 year olds, the difference is less.

Throughout the 1980s women's consumption increased relative to that of men, the report said. One man in four

and one woman in twelve drank more than the recommended weekly amount of 21 units for men and 14 for women. One unit is equivalent to half a pint of beer, a single measure of spirits or a glass of wine.

Among men, construction workers had the worst record for drinking more than 21 units a week. Professional women, except for those working in health and education, and women employed in the arts were more likely to have drunk in excess of 14 units a week. The survey found people drank about nine units a week both before and after the licensing laws change.

Golf clubs set auction record

By JOHN SHAW

THE Auchterlonie collection of 23 golf clubs, all used by champions between 1860 and 1930, fetched £527,000 at Sotheby's in Chester yesterday to set a world auction record for sporting memorabilia.

A British-based company bought the collection, which is expected to go on public display. The woods and irons, used by such champions as Tom Morris and Bobby Jones, were fought over by two buyers at a sale of golf items, one in the room and the winning, anonymous bidder on the telephone.

The price easily surpassed the £251,464 paid this year for a bubble gum card of a baseball player sold at Sotheby's, New York. The original estimate for the clubs was £600,000 to £900,000. The auction total was £1,132,461 with 95 per cent sold.

The collection was built up by Willie and Laurie Auchterlonie, a father-and-son partnership of professional golfers and club makers at the Royal and Ancient club, St Andrews. It was their habit to ask victorious golfers for an addition to their collection, and in the euphoria of triumph a club was usually handed over.

Laurie Auchterlonie died in 1985 and the identity of yesterday's vendor was not disclosed.

Salmonella in humans shows a decline

Human cases of salmonella poisoning are at the least in four years, according to government health officials. However, salmonella in poultry, the most often identified source of the infection in humans, appears to be rising, although this may be due to more rigorous testing (Michael Hornsby writes).

There were 7,849 cases of salmonella in the first half of this year, 17 per cent fewer than in the same period of 1990 and the lowest first-half total since 1987, when 5,775 cases were recorded, the Public Health Laboratory Service said yesterday. Cases of salmonella enteritidis plagues type 4, the strain most often associated with poultry, fell by 18 per cent to 3,946, the lowest since the 3,318 of the first half of 1988. The comparable 1990 figure was 4,837.

Cases of salmonella infection in poultry rose 27 per cent from 2,305 to 2,936 in the 12 months to June 30.

Ray treatment, page 6

Ruling delayed

The High Court yesterday reserved judgment on an attempt to punish Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, for contempt over the deportation of an asylum-seeker. Mr Justice Simon Brown did not say when he would give a ruling in the case of a teacher, aged 29, deported 35 minutes after the Home Office gave a court pledge to defer his return to Zaire, where, the man said, he had been a political prisoner.

Trident tender

The government has invited Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering (VSEL) to tender for the fourth and last Trident ballistic missile submarine. The defence ministry said that the Trident programme remained on time and within budget to enter service in the mid-1990s. The first three Vanguard class Trident submarines are under construction at the VSEL yard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Ribena deal

The Beecham Group has settled out of court with parents of 12 children whose teeth were allegedly affected by Baby Ribena. Beecham said that it denied negligence in the marketing of the drink, whose previous instructions on usage were said by the parents to be open to misunderstanding.

Turner shortlist

Two sculptors and two painters have been shortlisted for the Turner Prize, nominated after losing its sponsor last year and doubled to £20,000. The prize is sponsored by Channel 4, which will televise the presentation in November. The Tate Gallery said that the artists were Ian Davenport and Fiona Rae, both abstract painters, and the sculptors Rachel Whiteread and Anish Kapoor.

Legal challenge

Anthony Scriven, QC, chairman of the Bar, will challenge in the Court of Appeal today the refusal of magistrates' courts to allow poll-tax defaulters someone to advise them in court. The appeal over what is known as a McKenzie friend, after a 1970 case that established the right for such an adviser, is being brought by Liberty, the civil rights group.

Legal briefing, page 27

Back from Gulf

The flagship of British naval forces during the Gulf conflict, HMS Brave, returned home to Devonport yesterday. Families lined the quay to welcome the crew, who had been away six months.

MG sports car makes a comeback

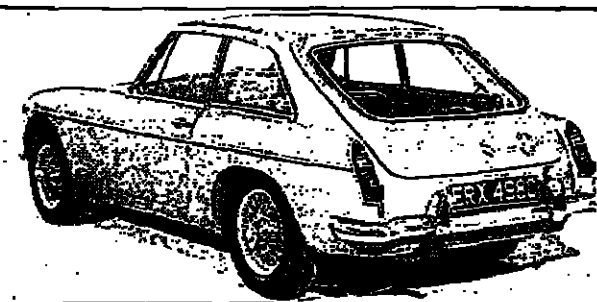
By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A NEW MG sports car will be launched next year to mark the long-awaited return of one of the most famous names in British motoring history.

Proposals soon to be sanctioned by senior management at Rover, which holds the rights to the badge, will give the go-ahead to make a high-performance car, costing as much as £25,000, which can be shown for the first time at the British International Motor Show next autumn.

The company has been spurred on by accusations that Britain has lost its traditional position as the world's leading mass producer of sports cars, mainly to the Japanese.

The name of MG is still synonymous with high-performance sports cars even though the last true two-seater, the MGB, was scrap-



Up to the mark: an MGB, of which 500,000 were made

ped over a decade ago. More than 500,000 MGB models alone were turned out by the BL conglomerate before the business was closed under a survival plan of Sir Michael Edwards, then chairman.

Ironically, it was the enthusiasm of collectors of old MGs which forced Rover executives to consider re-entering the sports car market at a time when most car companies are trying to survive the recession.

The company set up British Motor Heritage, a tiny factory based in Faringdon,

to the MGB would use the same 3.9-litre V8 engine which powers the Range Rover. That could give the car 260 brake horsepower, to make it one of the most exciting cars of the year as well as one of the most exclusive, with manufacture limited to between 1,500 and 2,000.

The model is seen as a way of re-introducing the MG badge with an all-new sports car, probably much smaller and designed to rival the highly successful MX-5 made by Mazda of Japan, available by 1993. An updated V8 model could then follow in 1994, according to Car magazine.

Although coming a little late to the motoring scene, a new MG will be welcomed and could also be an important asset to Rover's exporting ambitions. American dealers are said to be desperate for a new car, underlining the popularity of the marque there.

Quality control trust launched

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE great, the good and the man who admits selling "crap" have joined forces to improve the quality of life in Britain.

Gerald Ratner, who said that his firm's 99p gold earrings, though cheaper, would not last as long as a Marks & Spencer prawn sandwich, has forged an unlikely alliance with Dame Janet Baker, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Steve Cram, and Sir John Gielgud, among others, as patrons of a new think-tank The British Trust.

Its aim is to bring standards across a whole range of public services in Britain up to the best found in other countries. Regular reports, based on extensive research abroad, will be published on schools, hospitals, public transport and the environment. Public campaigns, backed by opinion polls, will then be launched to improve various sectors of

British society. The trust, an independent body funded by public donations, has been set up by Neil Jamieson, a former public relations manager at BUPA. "The quality of life has been dropping. Liter is all over the streets, the education system does not turn out people who speak the English language and there is no infrastructure in the transport programme," Mr Jamieson said.

Mr Jamieson, who two years ago instigated the Scenic Scottish Trust to preserve the countryside, denied that the new organisation would be examining areas expected to be covered by the citizens' charter. He said the trust would be tackling the "disease" while the charter was merely aimed at "symptoms".

Leading article, page 15

Failed businessman who used 'Dalek' voice distorter based £500,000 blackmail attempt on rejected thriller

Kidnapper of millionaire's wife jailed for 15 years

By DAVID YOUNG

A FAILED property developer and thriller writer who kidnapped a millionaire's wife was yesterday jailed for 15 years. The judge awarded his victim £100 as a token of recognition for her courage during her six-day ordeal.

John Warrington, aged 43, of Picot Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and falsely imprisoning Mrs Margaret Smith. He also admitted making a £500,000 blackmail demand to her husband Roger Smith, chairman of Trimoco motor dealer group and deputy chairman of Luton Town football club.

Warrington had based his kidnapping attempt on the plot of a thriller, *Strawberry Fayre*, which he had hoped would turn him into a successful author, but which had been rejected by publishers.

Mrs Smith, aged 49, was taken from her £750,000 home near the village of Markyate, Hertfordshire, in February when Warrington, masked with a balaclava and clutching a revolver and pitchfork, burst into the kitchen. He locked her in the boot of his car for 20 hours before keeping her chained up and blindfolded in a room above a bric-a-brac shop run by his wife in Hemel Hempstead high street. He demanded £500,000 from Mr Smith, using an electronic voice distorter which earned him the nickname "The Dalek" among investigating police officers.

Mrs Smith's six-day ordeal ended on March 6 when two milkmen, Bert Boyce and Ted

Sanders, heard her cries and raised the alarm. She was in court to see her kidnapper's face and to hear his real voice for the first time. Mrs Smith, a charity worker, said that she was "amazed" at the sentence passed on Warrington. "It's a very long time. I know it was a very awful thing that happened but I really didn't expect that length of time. I have sympathy for his wife and family."

Mrs Smith, a mother of three, said that she was now frightened of the dark and of going for country walks on her own. She said her £100 award was "astounding" and that she would give it to a worthy cause than herself.

After the case it was disclosed that while in custody Warrington had tried to write to Mrs Smith expressing his apologies but the letter had not been forwarded. It ended: "Good luck. I am sorry, John."

Warrington was told by Judge Colston, QC: "What you have pleaded guilty to are offences of great gravity because they strike at the roots of other people's lives and their ability to live peacefully without fear."

"It is clear to me by what had happened by the latter part of last year that your own world was collapsing about you because of your financial difficulties. When the financial abyss was looming over the horizon ever nearer, what you did was to turn to crime and very grave crime."

"What you did hardly bears thinking about if one tries to put oneself in the position of the victim. It was through no thanks to yourself that she was



Failed plot: kidnapper John Warrington, left, Roger and Margaret Smith, top, the room where she was held, above, and Bert Boyce, right, the milkman who heard her cries

eventually freed. Rather it was her courage, observation and clear-headedness that made her realise that the milk float was in the area."

Piers Reed, counsel for Warrington, told St Albans crown court that Warrington kidnapped Mrs Smith when he was on the point of being evicted, having his possessions seized by bailiffs and being declared bankrupt.

Jonathan Lowen, for the prosecution, told the court that Warrington, a property developer, had met Mr Smith and was impressed by his wealth. About midday on Thursday, February 28, Mrs Smith was preparing to go to a function at the Savoy hotel, London. She was ironing

when she was confronted by her kidnapper and forced into the boot of his car. Mr Lowen said: "In the darkness her fear and apprehension were unimaginable. She had no idea where she was or where she

was being taken to." When Mr Smith returned home at 3.45pm he found the radio on and a partly ironed shirt on the board. When he discovered that his wife had not attended a 2.30pm hairdress-

ing appointment he raised the alarm.

Mr Lowen said Mrs Smith was in the car boot for 20 hours. Warrington then carried and dragged her up a flight of stairs to a small room.

He gave her a bucket to use as a toilet, chained her to a radiator and blindfolded her.

At one point Mrs Smith was able to see Warrington prising up a loose floorboard. "I thought I was about to be

murdered and buried there," she told the police who cut her free. In fact, Warrington was exposing a floor joist from which to chain the handcuffs that cut into her wrists.

During the fourth day of her captivity Mrs Smith asked her kidnapper: "Are you going to kill me?" Warrington replied in his distorted voice: "No, I promise. You have been as good as gold. I'm sorry to do this to a lady of your calibre."

Detectives asked for a news blackout while they searched for Mrs Smith. Her husband was prepared to sacrifice his £3.5 million fortune to get her back. The ransom, in used £50 and £20 notes, was awaiting Warrington's delivery instructions when she was found.

£23 synthesizer fooled speech experts

THE man detectives dubbed The Dalek switched from thriller writing to crime amid shattered dreams of a transformation from debtor to best-selling author.

With the bank about to foreclose on his home and property ventures, and his debts rising by £1,000 a week as property values fell, John Warrington used a £23 electronic toy bought in Harrods as the instrument of a £500,000 ransom demand. The "wacky, wild and fun" voice

synthesizer became a main ingredient in his real-life plot. He had bought it to find out if the battery-powered miniature speaker could be used to distort voices over the phone as part of his research for a thriller involving a kidnapping.

The yellow microphone and black box disguised Warrington's voice so well that not even Home Office laboratory experts could tell if it was a man or woman when they analysed tapes of phone calls which

Warrington made to Roger Smith setting out his ransom demands.

The brief calls demanding six-figure sums were barely understandable as Warrington juggled to hold the synthesizer close to the mouthpiece when he made his calls from public call-boxes. However, one message was clear: it warned Mr Smith that his wife was being kept in "severely inhospitable" conditions.

Sleeping gas gang robs train tourists

By QUENTIN COWDREY

HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FOURTEEN British tourists have been robbed of cash and jewellery worth thousands of pounds by a gang of French train thieves that sprayed them with a powerful sleeping gas.

The attack, one of many in recent months, happened when the holidaymakers were sleeping in coaches on an overnight train from Boulogne to Avignon. The thieves moved from compartment to compartment, spraying passengers with hand-held gas canisters. The gas worked almost instantly and no serious after-effects.

"We don't know what kind of gas they used but my wife felt groggy afterwards and the kids slept for two whole days," Mark Atherton, aged 34, of Westhoughton, Lancashire, said. "We were all out cold."

When he and his wife Pam and their teenage daughters came to, they discovered the thieves had stolen 16,000 francs (£1,630) from their baggage.

Mrs Atherton, aged 32, said: "Our compartment was locked but somehow the door suddenly opened. I saw two men but in a split second I was out like a light." The thieves escaped after stopping the train by pulling an emergency cord.

Among the other British victims of the robbery, which occurred earlier this month, were a Scottish couple who lost all their cash and travellers' cheques.

A family from St Albans, Hertfordshire, has written to *The Times* to say that it was robbed in similar circumstances in June when travelling on a sleeper between Boulogne and St Raphael. The Lisney-Smiths, who lost £450 in the robbery, have advised British tourists to secure their compartment doors with rope or wire before going to sleep.

Yesterday, Jan Lisney-Smith said the thieves may have sprayed the gas underneath the door before entering the compartment. "They must have used something fairly strong as I am a light sleeper and would normally have woken as soon as the door was prised open," she said.

The Foreign Office said yesterday leaflets prepared by the ministry already warn of the dangers of thieves operating from French railway stations and on public transport.

MP says businessman constituent libelled her

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DISPUTE over an Essex businessman's use of his local MP's privileged dining facilities at the House of Commons came to a head yesterday with the opening of a libel action in the High Court.

Teresa Gorman, the Conservative MP for Billericay, is suing Anthony Mudd, a prominent businessman in her constituency, over a mock press release that he issued in her name in May 1988. James Price, counsel for Mrs Gorman, told the court that the release, circulated to 100 leading constituency members, was malicious and "inspired by Mr Mudd's evident dislike of Mrs Gorman".

Mr Mudd, of Billericay,

denies libel. He says that the press release was true and that he had a duty to publish it. The court was told that Mr Mudd had used the privilege of dining at Parliament, gained through Mrs Gorman, to promote a business in which tourists paid to stay at his home. Mr Price said that the dinner guests were included in outings for the guests.

Mr Mudd had formed the Billericay Conservative Businessmen's Club and had managed to attract important political figures to speak at Commons dinners. Mrs Gorman's predecessor had happily handed over to Mr Mudd his allocation of dinner dates at Parliament. When

Mrs Gorman was elected MP in June 1987 she was expected "to dance to Mr Mudd's tune", but disapproved of what she saw as his abuse of House of Commons dining room privileges and from September 1987 she "turned the tap off". Mr Price said.

In January 1988 *The Guardian* quoted Mrs Gorman as saying that she hoped that the businessmen's club would become the nucleus for her new fund-raising patron's club. Mr Price said that that was followed by the mock press release, which falsely accused her of extolling her virtues at the expense of the club, and suggested that she was vain.

The case continues today.



In the flow: Joe Collins, an architect, among children at Hatch Warren junior school, Basingstoke, the latest in a series of schools with which the Hampshire county architects have assumed the lead in imaginative public architecture in Britain (Marcus Binney writes). Mr Collins says that its sea-horse shape arose from a desire for a sense of movement in his buildings. Most people, he says, live in rectilinear buildings. "The novelty

of curved forms, I believe, helps liberate children's minds," he said. The snaking line of corridors is reminiscent of the view out of a train on a winding ascent. Mr Collins's wife, a teacher, insisted that classrooms be bright and airy, so light is bounced down white brick walls from roof lights into the rooms. An exhibition of the Hampshire architects' work opens today at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1.

Doctors 'peddled Aids treatment'

TWO doctors who prescribed a form of Indian medicine to Aids victims faced misconduct charges yesterday.

The General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told they prescribed tablets containing plant extract and faeces. Roger Chalmers and Leslie Davis used a treatment called Maharishi Ayur-Veda (MAV) — espoused by the religious cult leader Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The hearing was told that the therapy cost \$500 a month and that evidence relating to 12 patients — some of whom are now dead — who underwent the treatment would be presented to the hearing.

Timothy Langdale, opening the case for the council, said the doctors qualified in 1982 and developed an interest in transcendental meditation. They became associated with the Maharishi's group and formed an organisation based at Mentmore, Bedfordshire, called the World Medical Association for Perfect Health. "What is alleged is that they promoted and peddled an MAV therapy to those who were infected with HIV or who suffered from Aids," Mr Langdale said.

Dr Chalmers, who is registered at Great Shelford, Cambridge, is accused of six charges of misconduct and Dr Davis, of Mentmore Towers, faces seven.

Duncan Campbell, a journalist, uncovered information about the doctors' activities and interviewed them. Dr Chalmers told him he had 1,400 patients and charged £60 an hour for consultation.

The hearing continues today.

Redgrave loses job case

By ROBIN YOUNG

VANESSA Redgrave's personal secretary won £8,925 compensation for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

The chairman, Stella Hollis, said the tribunal was satisfied that Miss Redgrave and her brother Corin had acted unreasonably in seeking Corina Gilbert, although they had claimed that she abused them in the street.

Mrs Gilbert said she was dismissed for showing an actor round the home of Gerry Healy, the late Marxist leader alleged to have had sexual intercourse with at least 26 of his party's young female workers. The house, in Clapham, southwest London, is the Marxist party headquarters. Mrs Gilbert had been Mr Healy's secretary before working for five years as the sole employee of Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises.

She told the tribunal that when she returned from a trip to Greece she was met at Heathrow by Miss Redgrave and her brother Corin. She was given a letter suspending her from the Marxist party, of which Mr Redgrave is general secretary, and when she went to the party headquarters to

gather her belongings, she said, he treated her "like the Gestapo".

Mr Redgrave told the tribunal that the headquarters, which had belonged to Mr Healy who died in 1989, contained Miss Redgrave's "lifetime's archives, irreplaceable documents and valuable possessions". A committee had been set up to regulate visitors and no-one was allowed entry without his permission.

Mrs Gilbert said that she had received specific permission to invite the American actor Cork Hubbard. At a previous hearing Mr Hubbard

was linked with the CIA and FBI, which Mr Redgrave said were a security threat to the Marxist party.

Bruce Carr, for Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises, said Mrs Gilbert had been dismissed because she became abusive to Mr Redgrave at the house, screwing papers into his face and calling her employees Stalinists.

Mrs Gilbert agreed with Mr Carr that she had shouted at Mr Redgrave, but denied thrusting papers in his face. After the tribunal's decision Mrs Gilbert said: "I am glad the truth has come out."



Gilbert: admitted she had shouted at Mr Redgrave

Gas meter readers' days may be numbered

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas has brought forward plans to install electronic meters capable of relaying information about the amount of gas used direct to the company's billing computers.

Volume production of the gadgets, to replace the traditional diaphragm meters, is to begin at the start of 1994 rather than in September 1995. Final decisions about the design of the meters will be taken after a 12-month trial of prototypes at the homes of 100 gas company

staff. Introduction of electronic meters will also make it easier for customers to check they are being charged correctly. British Gas is promising to provide "ready reckoners", which will relate meter readings to gas prices.

However, the full benefits of technological advance may spread rather more slowly than many customers would wish. A timetable for replacement of existing meters has yet to be agreed. The company says it plans to replace diaphragm meters as

they reach the end of their lives. Since they have a replacement cycle of 20 years, it may be a couple of decades before every home sees its bulky meter box replaced by a modern device the size of a house brick.

With almost 18 million customers, and another 250,000 being added every year, British Gas will be installing a million new meters annually.

The benefits of remote reading may not, however, be made available to cus-

tomers with electronic meters. British Gas says only that the meters will be suitable for remote reading. The company is still examining various methods and whether or not it is commercially desirable. Paying meter readers may cost money, but their visits provide a useful safety check and may help to discourage meter fiddling.

In the medium term, the greatest beneficiaries of the ingenious new meters may be their manufacturers. One of the devices selected for

trial is made by Siemens Measurements, a Lancashire-based subsidiary of the German electrical engineering group Siemens. The meter uses technology developed to measure the amount of hot water used by residents of German flats to heat their apartments.

The other, offered by Gill Electronic R&D, an independent partnership located in Lymington, Hampshire, derives its technology from a device used to measure the speed of sailing craft.

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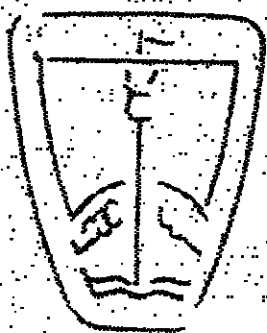
How their large discounts only apply to particular models and obsolete stock.

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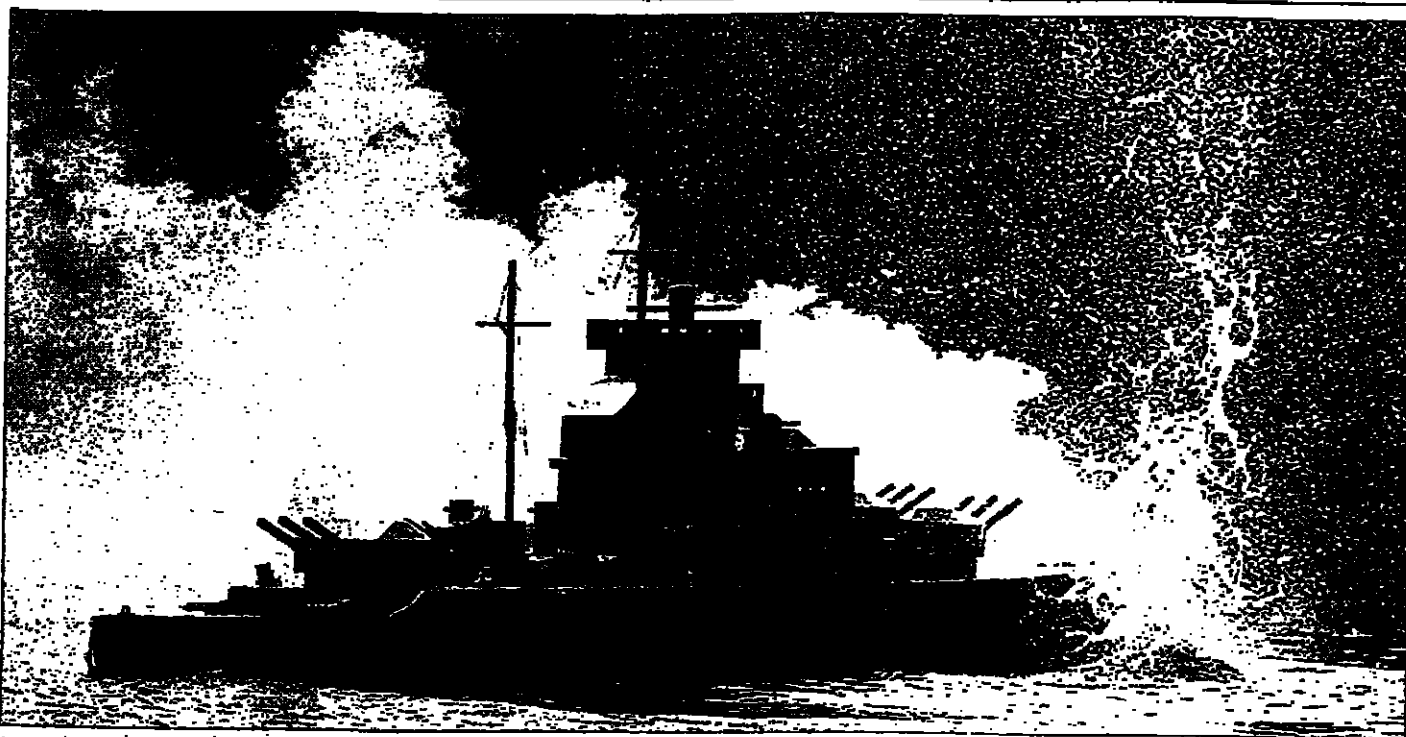
By TIM JONES

ATLANTIC command, also known as Scarborough borough council, is inviting tenders to see whether Britain's longest running naval battle can be made more cost-effective.

As Tom King, defence secretary, battles to reduce the nation's defence budget by billions of pounds, the councillors of Scarborough are wondering whether their two explosives experts, Bernard Schofield and Malcolm Walker, can be replaced to reduce the £36,000 cost of the smallest manned navy in the world.

Twice a week, the half-hour Battle of Peasholm Park enthalls holidaymakers as an Atlantic convoy sets off across the park's 4ft-deep lake. All is calm until enemy warships and submarines intent on sinking the vital supply line, crash through the ducks and open up with guns and torpedoes.

In the ensuing battle, the lake is rocked by 250 explosions as the 20ft scale model



Action stations: the Robert Eaves under attack, left, Malcolm Walker, in HMS Jervis Bay, right, and how the ship is operated, below right

craft engage each other in combat and aeroplanes whizz on wires through the smoke-filled air. As ever, a straggler is selected for attack by an enemy submarine that sends her to the bottom with two well-aimed torpedoes. As the submarine alters course to find another victim, aircraft from HMS Ark Royal pick her out, and, with the help of a merchantman, the great skirmish is over and

once again Britannia rules the waves. On the shore, an organist plays rousing music.

After the second world war, the spectacle, which began in 1927, was changed to depict the Battle of the River Plate, with the German pocket battleship, the Admiral Graf Spee being defeated. Now, the enemy has no name. Gareth Jones, the council entertainments officer, said yesterday: "When

we joined the EEC, it was thought to be rather less than diplomatic to depict one of our partners being soundly thrashed twice a week."

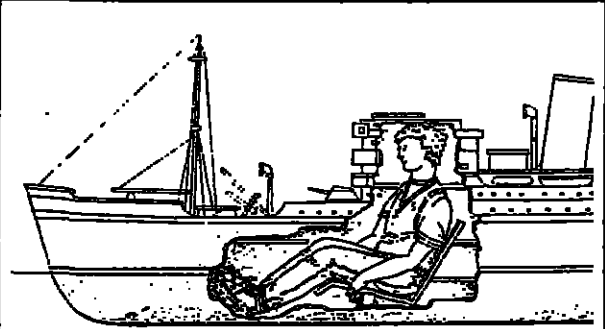
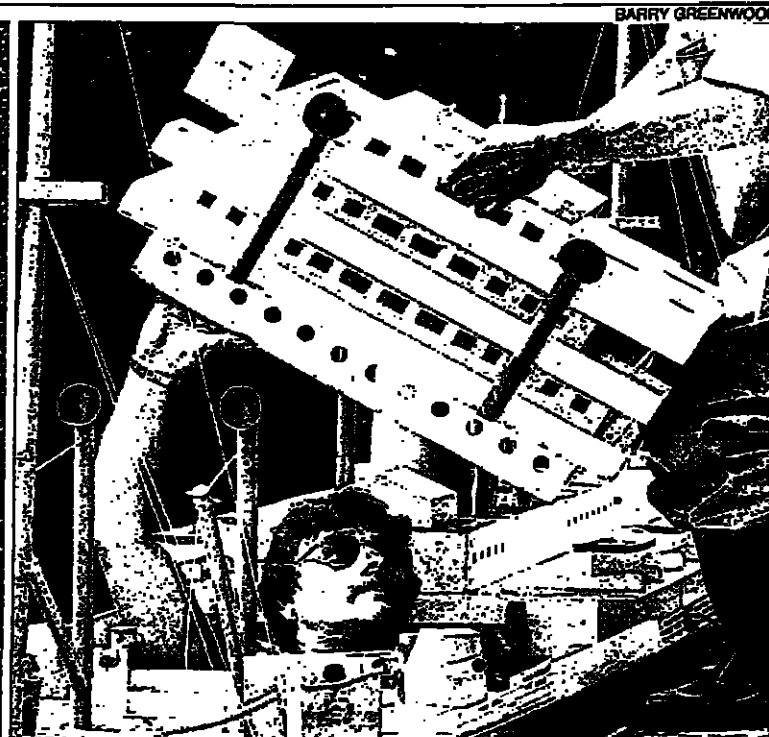
The Graf Spee has been renamed the Robert Eaves and the submarine is not based on any class involved in the battle of the Atlantic.

Many visitors who witness the battle believe the ships are radio-controlled. In fact, most are operated by men

who squeeze inside them, powering the craft by foot pedals as they throw switches to fire guns. None of it would be possible without Mr Schofield and Mr Walker, the electronics brains behind the display. They lay the charges, cause the aircraft to fly and ensure that there is enough smoke to thrill.

If the council can find someone to do the job more cheaply both men will be replaced, although John Trebble, the council's chief executive, admits that the chance is slim. He said: "We are very satisfied with them. We are going to tender just to test the water to comply with council standing orders."

In a dangerous world, which councillor would dare to tell the men that sink the erstwhile Graf Spee that their services are no longer required?



Estate agents want up to £220m to set tax bandings

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

ESTATE agents are preparing to charge the government up to £10 per property for carrying out valuations for the council tax. With more than 22 million homes to be valued, the demand could swallow up almost all of the £250 million allocated by ministers for the valuation exercise and is certain to be resisted.

Under plans being drawn up by the environment department, valuers will be asked to tick a box on a computer sheet, David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said: "The prospect of estate agents being paid £10 just to tick a box on a card

is outrageous. The council tax proposals are beginning to degenerate into farce.

"The idea that an entire financial system could be based on estate agents' guesswork is a joke. A great deal more thought and planning is needed if we are not to face a fiasco on the scale of the poll tax." Estate agents will carry out the bulk of the banding exercise and firms will be invited to tender for batches of 10,000 properties in October. The Inland Revenue Valuation Office will tackle borderline cases.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, held talks last week with the presidents of the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which represents estate agents.

At the meeting the two professional bodies agreed to help to draw up the card for placing properties into bands which one senior source described yesterday as being "like a bingo card".

Addresses would be printed down the left hand side with a grid of the seven property bands. Whitehall sources said yesterday that in most cases it was envisaged that estate agents would conduct the exercise by driving around their local area ticking off properties as they went. Only in a minority of cases would closer inspection be involved.

The two professional bodies have taken soundings from their members in estate agents' offices and have been told that bids for banding work will range from £3 to £10 per house. A senior source said: "The amount of work involved will vary from area to area. In the suburbs it will be done by car or on foot but in places like the Yorkshire Dales it will take hours and involve an awful lot of work."

Labour wants greater use of the Valuation Office. "Its entire budget is £140 million a year and yet the government is preparing to spend £250 million to do the job privately," Mr Blunkett said.

MA course criticised again

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TWO academics who were suspended from the University College of Swansea after criticising a postgraduate course are still at risk of further action in spite of more criticism of the course in an independent report.

Colwyn Williamson and Michael Cohen, who alleged impropriety in the running of an MA course in the philosophy of health care, have been teaching in a public house since being suspended. On Thursday the college council will consider recommendations to dismiss Mr Williamson and reprimand Mr Cohen.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the former chief of the Universities Funding Council, said yesterday in his report that insufficient thought had gone into the purpose of the course. However, he did not find the examining board negligent in passing a thesis said to have contained plagiarised material.

Rush to pick the peas that please

By ROBIN YOUNG

VINERS were harvesting around the clock in Wine Group yesterday, but it is already clear that this is a difficult vintage year for an important British crop... frozen peas.

Wine Group is the name of the pea fields nearest Birds Eye Wall's Lowestoft factory, and vinters are the 15-tonne machines that gather the pods. Due to the cold, the harvest began a month later this year than last. Then hot weather brought early varieties to maturity in a rush, over-burdening the plant's capacity to process 40 tonnes a day. Yesterday saw a lull as the first flush was cleared and late-ripening varieties began to come on stream.

Like wine, peas are subjected to expert tasting. Quality auditors boil them for three minutes and assess colour, flavour and texture. Peas lose marks for colour variations, shells that split in cooking, or sourness. The cold has produced an increase in "blondes", pale or yellow peas rejected by electronic bichromatic sensors.

Over-maturity produces resilient peas that fail "tenderometer" tests and which the quality auditors are likely to reject as "mealy" or "corny".

The smallest tender peas are export quality. Birds Eye Wall's expects to export at least 10,000 tonnes, chiefly to Germany and Italy, this year.

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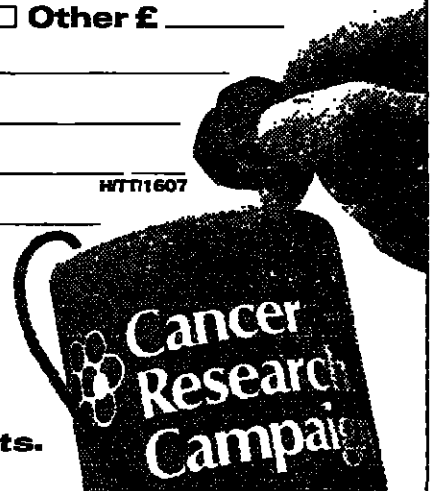
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Pepper gets the gamma ray treatment despite doubts

ON THE fringes of Swindon, Wiltshire, a British company is boldly advancing the frontiers of food safety or, depending on your point of view, irresponsibly treating consumers as human guinea pigs for a largely unwanted and still not fully tested technology.

In a corner of what looks from the outside like a warehouse is a chamber with two-metre thick concrete walls. Sirens hoot and a red light flashes "No entry. Radiation" as a blue-glowing rack of Cobalt 60 rods rises from a pool of water to bombard with gamma rays food and other products on a conveyor of metal rollers.

Last month the agriculture ministry granted the Isotron company a licence to irradiate herbs and spices. It was the first general food irradiation licence in Britain since the process was legalised last year.

John Barker, Isotron's managing director, said: "We have been irradiating batches of pepper for one or two customers in this country. I am not prepared to identify them beyond saying they are not among the

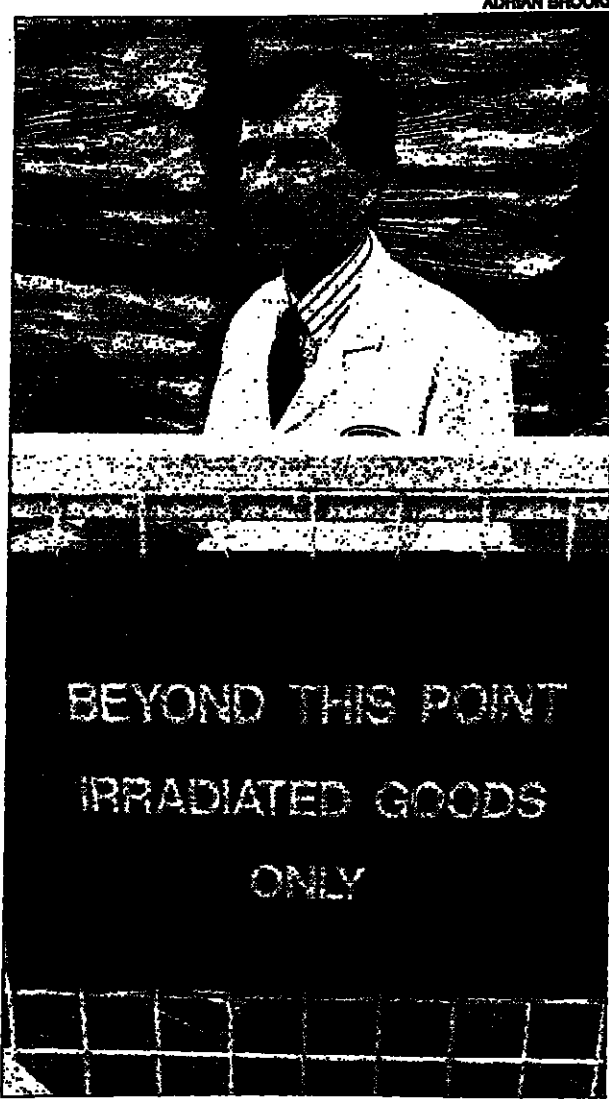
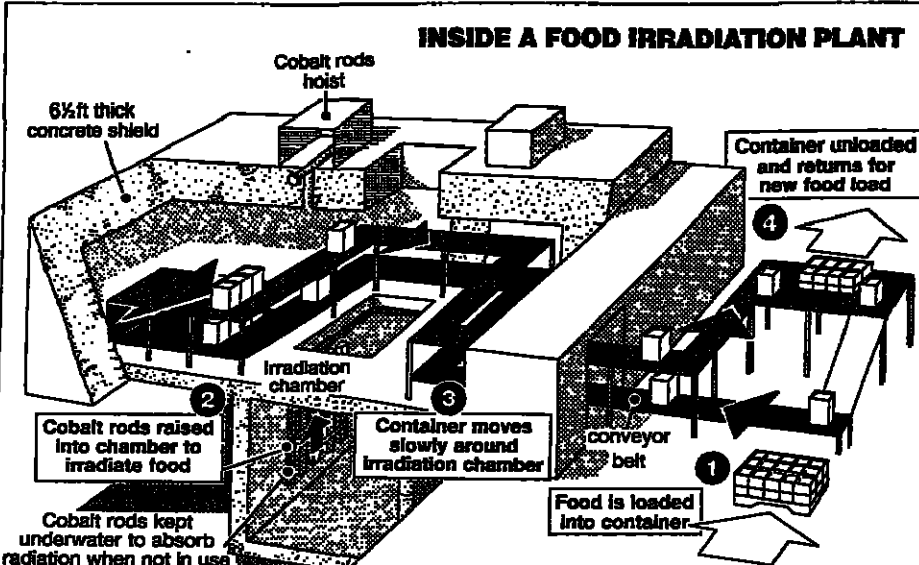
Michael Hornsby visits the factory where, behind thick concrete walls, herbs and spices are irradiated

major spice suppliers." Mr Barker's reticence is understandable. Scientific opinion overwhelmingly favours the controlled use of irradiation to destroy food poisoning organisms, but suspicion of

the process remains strong. Herbs and spices, which are exposed to infestation when left to dry in the sun after harvest, are the most obvious and least contested candidates for irradiation.

Yet so far, no supermarket has agreed to stock irradiated products, which would have to be labelled as such.

Mr Barker finds such attitudes depressing and irrational. "From my own contacts I know that many of the supermarkets privately admit the potential value of irradiation, but none of them wants to be seen to make the first move," he said.



John Barker with irradiated milk powder for cattle

Free renovation for run-down estate rejected

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A £35 million scheme to renovate a run-down estate in southwest London has been rejected by the government even though it would have cost the taxpayer nothing.

The plan, modelled on the government's Housing Action Trust programme, would have involved the demolition of six high-rise blocks and their replacement by houses and low-rise flats. The cost would have been met by the private sector.

The estate, at present owned by Labour-controlled Merton council, would have been transferred to an independent trust run partly by the tenants. A total of 930 homes on the Phipps Bridge estate at Mitcham were to have been improved. The estate, one of the worst in south London, is the location for *The Bill*, the television series about a police station.

Two neighbouring estates Cherry Tree and New Close were also included in the scheme, which would have renovated a total of 1,200 homes. The 60-acre site includes Deen City Farm, established to help local deprived children, which would have been relocated to nearby Bunce Meadow.

The environment department rejected the scheme because the council proposed to transfer the estate to the new trust for nothing in return for the right to nominate people from its waiting list for vacant flats.

Under the Housing Action Trust programme, councils are entitled to some payment for estates transferred to trusts. So far only one trust has been established, in Hull,

but three others are planned. Merton council says the right of first refusal over the renovated homes is worth more than the site. The department has been consulted at every step, it says, and recently approved a valuation exercise on the estates costing £50,000.

Renovation would have been carried out by the Probe consortium, which includes Lovell Homes and the Nationwide Building Society. The project was to have been financed by receipts from tenants exercising their right to buy.

Tony Coleman, Labour leader of Merton council, said: "The estate is an appalling example of Sixties architecture coming to the end of its life. The government appears to be bent on using bureaucratic rules to deny the residents a better future."

Siobhain McDonagh, chairman of the housing committee, said: "The environment department did not say no until the eleventh hour. They were consulted all along the line and they allowed us to get involved in an extremely expensive valuation exercise."

The environment department denied giving the scheme unqualified support. It said: "We made cautious noises. We have not been leading them into a blind alley. Housing regulations required the council to obtain the tenanted market value for the estates. It is not true to say that public money is not involved. These estates were built with public money and the council has used government subsidy to repay those loans."



Rubbish-strewn: the Phipps Bridge estate in Mitcham, described as one of London's worst

Circles reaping a rich harvest

By BILL FROST

UNEXPLAINED and mysterious forces have been at work in Wiltshire again, much to the collective joy of a now flourishing cottage industry.

The corn circles have reappeared across the county and with them the tourists, the scientists, the TV crews, the hippies and David Icke, TV sports presenter turned prophet of doom. Paying £1 each to walk the crop circles, the visitors were last year estimated to have spent more than £30,000 at one site alone.

The first circles of the 1991 harvest appeared at Alton Barnes, between Marlborough and Devizes — by coincidence, a year to the day since the last gigantic patterns first turned up in the same field.

The trippers, including Japanese "extra-terrestrial incident investigators" and British meteorologists have been out in force already. The hippies have stood in the field chanting for peace and love.

Tim and Polly Carson, who farm 1,500 acres at Alton Barnes including the mysterious field itself, are selling corn circle keyrings at £1.75, postcards and glossy photographs.

Mrs Carson was infuriated by the suggestion the circles were the work of an entrepreneurial hoaxer. "If this was a trick we would have chosen one of our much more accessible fields with good parking and room for ice cream vans. But you cannot blame us for cashing in on an inexplicable natural phenomenon."

At the Seven Stars public house Malcolm, who would not give his surname, described himself as a land artist, in other words a corn circle hoaxer. "I made one up for a German TV crew last year. Give me ten other blocks and two hours and I will give you circles every bit as good as them up the road. Still, they do get their lines nice and straight up there," he said.

American paedophile jailed

An American paedophile was jailed yesterday for a year with an order that he be deported at the end of his sentence.

Richard Gauthier, aged 45, assaulted the children of friends over an 18-month period at his home at Stanning, near Blackpool. The incidents came to light when one complained, Preston crown court was told. Gauthier admitted three specimen charges of indecent assault on children aged 12 to 15. Gauthier, a chemical engineer, had undergone therapy in the US after incidents there.

Case adjourned

The car designer Amherst Villiers, aged 90, is too ill after a hip operation to continue his evidence against Rolls-Royce in his £500,000 damages claim over the firm's alleged failure to complete a "super Rolls" project, the High Court was told. The case was adjourned.

Cot death

The four-month-old son of Anne Diamond, the television presenter, was a victim of cot death, a post-mortem examination confirmed. Sebastian died on Friday.

Driver banned

Jim Whelan, the British drag-racing champion, was banned from driving for two months, given three penalty points and fined £200 for speeding on the M1 at more than 130mph.

Worker crushed

Anthony Sobey, aged 35, a Channel tunnel worker, from Truro, Cornwall, was seriously ill after being crushed against an upright post.

Big wash

The world's largest dishwasher — 82ft long — has been installed at the British Airways catering centre at Heathrow. The £480,000 machine can wash 207 items a minute.

Back broken

A Japanese student broke her back when she jumped from a first-floor window during a fire at a hostel in west London.

"You'll never know until you've tried it"

JAMESON The Spirit of Ireland



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THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & SCIENCE DES

Teaching brings out the best in people.

Thatcher group wins approval

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Margaret Thatcher Foundation has been forced to act in the same way as big companies such as Marks & Spencer and Shell in order to win charitable status for donations.

The charity commissioners rejected the foundation's application for charitable status in its own right because they were concerned that it would prove politically partisan.

However, Margaret Thatcher's advisers believe that they can ensure that the foundation enjoys many of the tax benefits available to charities by channelling its funds through the Charities Aid Foundation, a clearing house for donations made by individuals and companies for charitable purposes.

The Thatcher foundation has been set up as a company limited by guarantee, the same basis as right-wing think tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies, and has decided to engage the Charities Aid Foundation to reclaim tax paid on donations made to the Thatcher foundation for charitable purposes.

A spokesman for the Thatcher foundation said: "By acting in this way we can guarantee that the funds paid into the foundation are only used for charitable purposes. The foundation has been set up in the United States and the United Kingdom, fund-raising is under way and we will make announcements when the activities of the foundation are running."

Banker criticises banks

BANKS should be more open in the way they charge customers, Sir Ian Stewart, a banker and a former Treasury minister, said during a debate on the finance bill last night (John Winder writes).

Sir Ian, Conservative MP for North Hertfordshire, said that there was a general feeling in the Commons that bank customers had grounds for suspicion about how they were treated, merely because

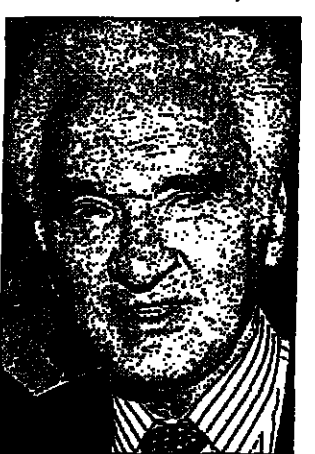
Mackay rebuts criticism of long delays at crown courts

By JOHN WINDER

WAITING times for crown court trials in London are better than at any time for the past 14 years, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday as he launched a strong defence against criticism by the Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice.

Last week, Lord Lane delivered a rebuke over the state of the court system, saying that it was at breaking point and that judges could not cope with the workload. His remarks were made at a London dinner for judges with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, sitting two places away.

Yesterday, Lord Mackay told the House of Lords: "Like the Lord Chief Justice, I am



Lord Mackay: concerned to keep bench to strength

concerned to keep the High Court bench up to its appropriate strength."

He disclosed that he had told Lord Lane and the other heads of division of the High Court last month that an extra chancery division judge was to be appointed, bringing the total of additional High Court judges since he took office in 1987 to five, while there had also been four extra appointments as lord justice in the same period.

"While waiting times in some parts of the court are a good deal higher than I would like, in the ordinary list of the Queen's Bench division, waiting times have been reduced to two months on the 'warned' list; 13 months on the 'fixtured' list and seven months on the 'after-fixtured' list", he said.

Despite the number of long cases being conducted in London, waiting times in crown court trials in London were on average the lowest they had been for 14 years.

Lord Mischon, Labour spokesman on legal affairs, referred to reports of Lord Lane's comments last week and said: "If accurate, this is an alarming picture."

Lord Mackay replied that much of the work was done by circuit judges. Their numbers had increased by 49 since November 1987.

Lord Ackner, a lord of appeal in ordinary, said that there were now more deputies than High Court judges trying non-jury cases and that was going to get much worse. From next October, there would be no High Court judge available to try any cases in the non-jury or chambers lists.

The Lord Chancellor replied that it had been part of the High Court system for many years that opportunities were given to deputy High Court judges to take High Court trials as a way of dealing with the work and of giving them experience.



Consumer crusader: Edward Leigh, who is working for a tighter trade descriptions law

Minister aims at putting end to timeshare abuse

By SUELLA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANGES in British and European Community law to stop abuses in the timeshare property market are being pursued by Edward Leigh, the consumer affairs minister.

Mr Leigh wants to tighten the trade descriptions law as part of his consumer rights bill next session to stop timeshare companies offering bogus free gifts. He is also pressing the European Commission for a directive giving a seven-day cooling off period throughout the Community for those signing timeshare agreements, with a guarantee of a written prospectus of the properties.

"I have spoken to EC Commissioner Karel Van Miert and received a positive response. Since then I have taken steps to encourage the Commission to introduce a directive as soon as possible", Mr Leigh told *The Times*, which has campaigned for the loopholes to be closed.

His officials at the trade and industry department are in touch with their counterparts in Spain and Portugal, where many Britons invest in timeshare complexes, on the terms of the EC directive.

The minister made clear yesterday that, although he can act quickly to clean up high-pressure timeshare promotions by British-owned companies, the main offenders operate on the Continent. "I am taking the lead and have framed a very simple directive that would require all timesharers to have a cooling-off period", he added.

His bill will extend trade descriptions law to services as well as goods. Under the pres-

ent act it is an offence for a trader to make false or misleading statements, but a recent court ruling exempted the sort of free gifts sometimes offered by timeshare promoters in England.

Mr Leigh's comprehensive plans for tightening consumer protection meet most of the demands of the consumer lobby. In addition to closing loopholes in the laws covering timeshare promotions, the bill will:

□ give consumers the right of redress if a contract is judged not to be "fair", in line with a draft EC directive;

□ update the Sale of Goods Act, as recommended by the Law Commission, so that goods sold are of "satisfactory quality" and are fit for their stated purpose, rather than merely of "merchantable quality";

□ moderate the powers of the director-general of fair trading to deal with rogue traders such as in the timeshare and garage industries; and

□ update the trade descriptions act.

The legislation will be in addition to the citizens' charter to be published later this month.

Mr Leigh said that better rights for the consumer went hand in hand with open markets. "We shall need to strike the right balance between protecting the interests of the consumer and not imposing excessive regulation on business. Our aim is a framework of law which will be accepted by producers and consumer alike."

Power station agreed

BRITAIN is to provide a £306 million soft loan to the government of Malaysia to help finance a hydro-electric power project in Kelantan State, the Overseas Development Administration announced yesterday.

The loan will be part financed from the British aid and trade provision which is designed to support develop-

ment projects of interest to British industry. The main contractor for the project, which will provide several years' work in Britain, is a joint venture by Balfour Beatty and Cementation International. The work involves designing and building a power station on the Pengam river for the Malaysian Electricity Authority.



Silcott case is raised by MP

A statement on the case of Winston Silcott, one of three men convicted for the murder of PC Keith Blacklock during the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot, was demanded in the Commons yesterday by Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham. He asked the Speaker what procedure was available to bring the home secretary here to this House to make a statement "in view of new evidence."

Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, said that he did not give procedural advice in public and he had already advised Mr Grant.

Pay rises

Ministers were accused during Commons questions of knowing in advance that salaries for chairmen of newly privatised industries would be doubled or tripled. Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, said that they were guilty of "deliberate complicity". John Wakeham, energy secretary, said Mr Flynn had made a statement "he knows to be untrue".

Cleaning bill

The cleaning of Victoria Tower at the House of Lords end of the Houses of Parliament should be completed in 1994, John MacGregor, leader of the House, said at question time. The cost will be about £7.5 million.

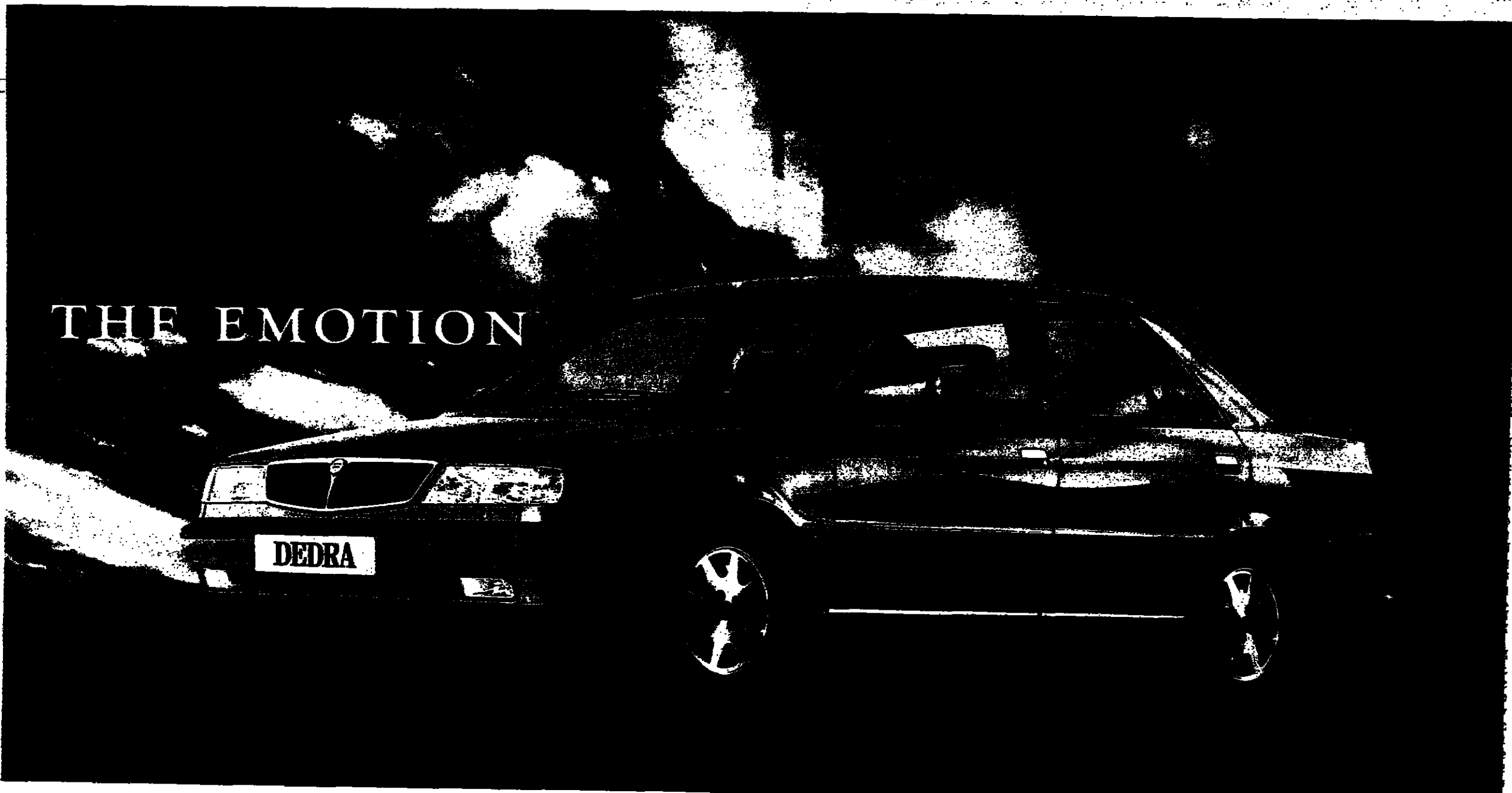
Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Health; prime minister; Finance bill, conclusion of remaining stages; Criminal Justice bill; Lords amendments; Lords (2.30): Export and investment guarantees bill, committee, second day.

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Major calls on leaders to back a disaster relief supremo



Hurd: idea first discussed with German counterpart

JOHN Major's proposal for a United Nations supremo to take charge of disaster relief operations stems from the prime minister's frustration at the slow UN response to the plight of the Kurds in the Turkish mountains.

Britain believes that only the appointment of a senior political figure with close links to the UN secretary-general can ensure the necessary political backing for future UN emergency operations. Mr Major wants his colleagues from the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations to support his proposals for a permanent disaster relief co-ordinator, based in New York, who can bring together swiftly the expertise and resources of existing UN agencies.

The idea was born during a discussion between Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his German opposite number, during Mr Hurd's recent visit to Halle, Herr Genscher's birthplace. Germany is also lobbying for a full-time UN co-ordinator.

Several weeks after the flight of the Kurds to Iraq, Mr Major wrote to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, expressing his disappointment that the organisation had been so tardy in helping the refugees. Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, also criticised what she saw as a disorganised and inadequate response.

Britain would like the new co-ordinator to act with the

A figure close to the secretary-general could ensure the necessary political backing for future UN operations, Michael Binyon writes

same speed and political clout as Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, appointed on an ad hoc basis to supervise the humanitarian relief for the victims of the Gulf war. He would be based in New York to have quick access to the secretary-general, but would maintain an office in Geneva, where most UN relief agencies, upon whose resources he could draw, are based. The new supremo would not be able to back relief operations with force. Britain believes that future

operations will succeed only if they win support from the countries affected: there is no question of imposing relief work on unwilling recipients.

Britain says similar ad hoc arrangements have worked well. Mr Major has cited not only the effectiveness of Prince Sadruddin but a similar earlier operation to help people facing starvation in the Sahara. Britain says speed is the essential element in all future operations. To help the new

supremo, a register will be drawn up of all available resources in UN member states, enabling the co-ordinator to see which country can supply tents, transport, food, medicines and other essentials at short notice.

The idea is likely to be welcomed by other G7 members. France has called for a similar reinforcement of UN capabilities. The United States, which was slow to respond to the plight of the Kurds, has made it clear that it is unwilling to shoulder responsibility for disaster relief on the scale of its flights and subsequent Operation Safe Haven for the Kurds.

A UN team which recently visited Iraq has proposed that the country be

allowed to export one million barrels of oil a day — bringing in \$5.5 billion (£3.3 billion) over 12 months — to pay for essential imports of food and medicine, Alan McGregor writes.

This and other measures to alleviate "the worsening plight of the majority of the population" are set out in a 40-page report from the team's leader, Prince Sadruddin. It was simultaneously put before the UN sanctions committee in New York.

"It becomes extremely difficult to separate the problem we are reviewing from current events," he said — referring to Iraq's prevarication on details of its nuclear equipment — in presenting the report to

representatives of relief agencies. "We have a moral responsibility, however, to try to keep the issues separate."

The priority needs listed are drugs, medical equipment, ambulances, parts for water and sewage systems, food and agricultural inputs, equipment for electricity plants, the oil sector and telecommunications. It was a glaring paradox, the report says, that the international community was financing emergency programmes in Iraq which the country could be paying for, instead of competing for scarce funds with the Horn of Africa and Bangladesh.

Saddam's victims, page 10
Desert Storm II, page 14

SOVIET REFORMS

Japan and Kohl warm to Gorbachev proposals

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MOSCOW yesterday rejected Western criticism of President Gorbachev's proposals for economic reform. Vitaly Ignatenko, Mr Gorbachev's spokesman, said most critics had not read the confidential 23-page letter in which the Soviet leader outlined the plan.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Japan yesterday gave a markedly warmer assessment of the letter than Western commentators did earlier. A Japanese foreign ministry official said Tokyo saw the letter as a serious proposition. "It leaves no doubt that there is an emerging zeal for economic reform," he added.

Herr Kohl, speaking out more forcefully in favour of helping Moscow than any Western leader so far, said the Soviet Union must not be allowed to "slide into instability". He told the first day of the Group of Seven summit that the meeting should mark the start of an intense dialogue between the Soviet Union and the West.

A German government

spokesman said the scepticism of other G7 members went too far. The plan put forward by Mr Gorbachev needed to be fleshed out, he said, "but it needs to be taken seriously and supported".

Vladimir Shcherbakov, the Soviet finance minister, admitted that Mr Gorbachev's proposals did not make a complete break with a planned economy. "It is naive to assume that a nation could live for 73 years in one system and then get up on January 1 in another economic system."

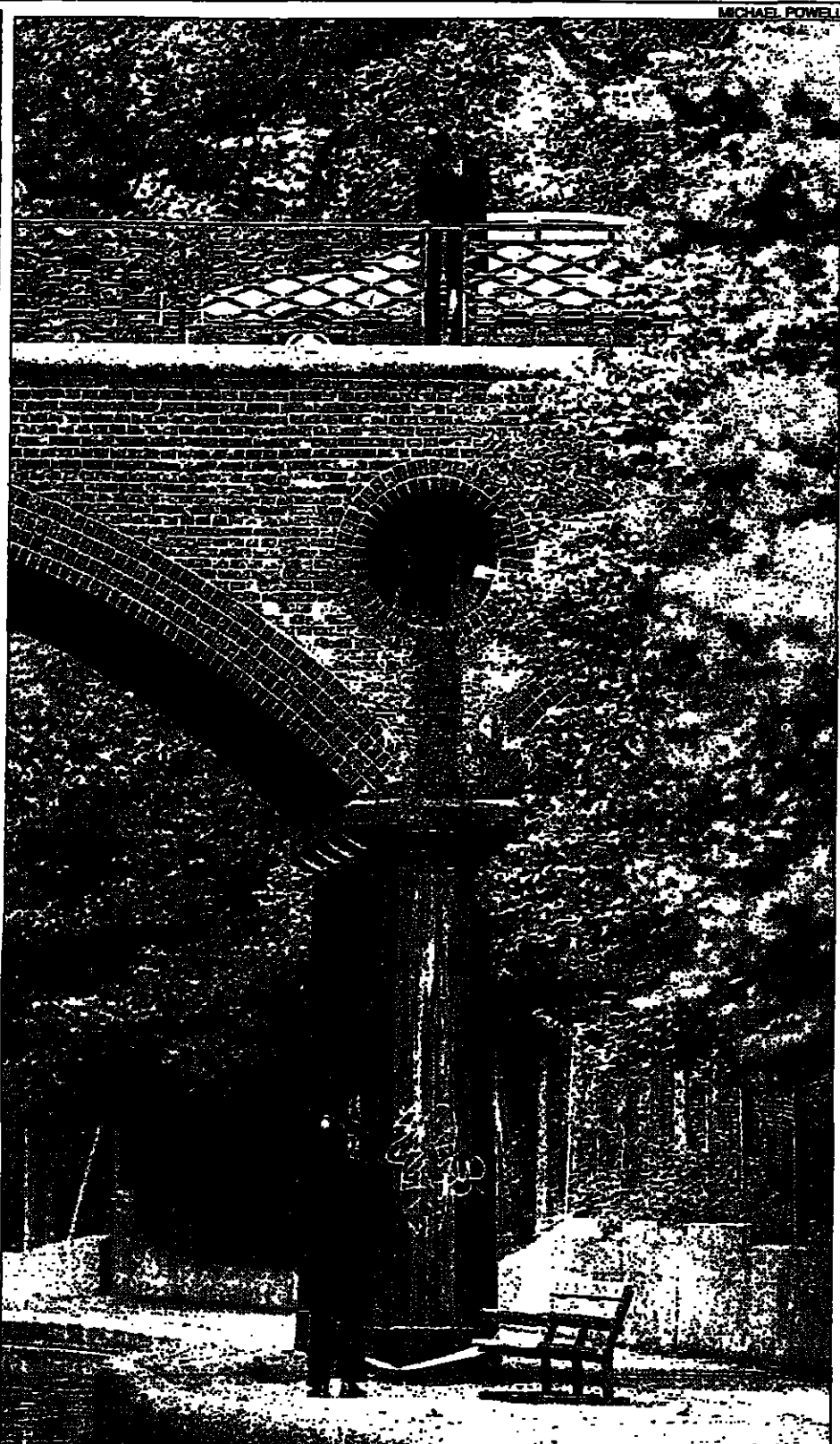
There were elements of state planning in every country, including those in the West.

Mr Shcherbakov said Mr Gorbachev would not simply repeat the details of his letter. Rather, he was seeking a dialogue with the G7 leaders in which he would in particular outline Soviet plans to turn over up to 80 per cent of defence plants to the production of civilian goods. Moscow was looking for Western partners to convert 400 military factories wholly to civilian use. These were now producing small arms, air force equipment, armoured vehicles, tanks and guidance equipment. Many more would be partly switched to non-military use.

Mr Shcherbakov also emphasised the importance of making the rouble convertible. He admitted this would produce such an initial surge in demand that Moscow might not be able to cope. To maintain confidence, the Soviet Union had to build up reserves of between \$10 billion and \$12 billion (£6.2 and £7.4 billion), not primarily to satisfy consumers, but to enable foreign investors to repatriate their profits. He added, with a smile, that the Soviet Union could help the West dispose of consumer goods it could not sell because of recession. "We could absorb them all, and they would fetch high prices. We could help you out."

Mr Ignatenko did not echo earlier warnings by Yevgeny Primakov, Mr Gorbachev's special envoy, that the Soviet Union could face "social uprisings" if the West did not provide help. He said the Soviet Union had passed the danger of falling into the kind of turmoil now rocking Yugoslavia. It would not backtrack on its reforms, even if Western aid was not forthcoming. But they would be slowed down.

Diary, page 14



Bridging a security gap: policemen exchanging a word in Regent's Park near the American ambassador's residence yesterday as patrols were increased for the summit

JAPAN

Tokyo resists isolation

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FOR Japan, the G7 meeting is exquisitely balanced on the twin horns of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and aid for the Soviet Union.

The Japanese delegation is also keeping a wary eye on the progress of John Major's proposal for a United Nations police force. In each case Japan is determined not to be isolated. Aid for the Soviet Union is a relatively simple issue but the Gatt round needs a more careful balancing of Japanese interests.

Tokyo has already given approval to President Bush's plan to conclude the Uruguay Round by the end of this year. That means that the Japanese

rice market must be opened at least partially.

It is a price Japan does not want to have to pay for good domestic political reasons, but as one observer put it: "The Japanese nightmare is to wake up and find Europe and the United States have agreed on the Gatt." The United States is pushing for what it calls "tariffication" of agricultural trade or an initial offer of 3 per cent of Japan's rice market to be opened over the next five to ten years.

In Japan's case the tariffication is more attractive because the starting point would be a 700 per cent tariff on imported rice gradually being whittled down to zero

over the years. But the hardliners in Tokyo say that either of these options is the thin edge of the wedge, so why not sit tight?

The Japanese delegation feels more comfortable with the emerging consensus on aid to the Soviet Union. Japan finds Moscow's economic plans still too vague and the return of the four northern islands taken from the Japanese at the close of the second world war remains of primary importance. The United Nations police proposal would find Japan still without legislation in place to cope with it and there is unlikely to be any new law until towards the end of this year.

SOVIET DIPLOMACY

Invitation fulfils long-held ambition

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's arrival in London this evening is the culmination of three years of diplomacy directed towards this one end: acceptance at the world's economic top table. To this extent, Soviet commentators are right in saying that the Soviet leader's invitation to London is the main achievement — anything else would be a bonus.

As Mr Gorbachev must be only too well aware, however, his diplomatic victory was achieved by not wholly conventional means and was far from complete. Contrary to his original hope, he was not invited to attend the Group of Seven summit. He has been invited to address the group when their formal meeting is over. He is a guest, not a member of the club.

For almost three years, his diplomats and advisers worked behind the scenes to smooth the Soviet leader's way. His final assault began during his round of visits to West European capitals last autumn. Secret diplomacy, pioneered by his adviser, Yevgeny Primakov, continued through the winter, parallel with talks on the Gulf conflict.

The secrecy surrounding his approach was needed partly to observe the diplomatic convention that invitations are not sought but given, and partly to avoid angering his conservative lobby, which suspects Western aid agreements of including political conditions that would impair Soviet sovereignty. By April, however, with the Gulf war over and Western gratitude for Soviet support waning, there was still no invitation. Mr Gorbachev therefore embarked on a strategy of high political risk. He dropped all diplomatic niceties and went public.

Firstly there was the open letter to the Group of Seven signed by Yevgeny Primakov and the economist, Grigori Yavlinsky, which, according to Mr Gorbachev's spokesman, was undertaken with his knowledge and approval. On May 6, however, with still no invitation, Mr Gorbachev spoke at a joint press conference with President Mitterrand, and said that he wanted to attend the London summit. He had also been carefully manipulating domestic policy to ensure that some of the West's unspoken conditions were met.

In diplomatic terms, his conduct was out of the ordinary, if not actually demeaning. But gradually it had the desired effect. Western countries were not inclined to deliver the snub that would be implied by rejecting Mr Gorbachev's direct approach.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Europeans are wary of a US 'secret weapon'

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AT LAST year's economic summit, Carla Hills, the American trade representative, hailed an international trade agreement as the missing engine for a global "locomotive of growth". Ministers from the seven leading industrial nations put "the successful conclusion" of the Uruguay Round of trade talks at the top of their agenda.

This year, the mood is subdued. Traffic jams in London have replaced the razzmatazz of Houston, Texas. Mrs Hills is at home. The "successful conclusion" formula draws groans from both trade reporters and American officials, although it was included on a draft communiqué for this week's meeting.

American officials privately hope to wrap up the barely revived talks by the end of the year, before President Bush's 1992 election campaign. However, tensions between the United States and the European Community over trade and interest rate policies look unlikely to subside soon.

Some Europeans point to Mr Bush's efforts over the past year to improve trade relations with his Latin American neighbours and wonder whether the emergence of regional trading blocs is the White House's secret weapon if the talks fail again. Members of Congress and some American officials worry about the community's moves to build a single market of 340 million people by the end of next year, especially as the United States has been enjoying trade surpluses with the EC, its single largest trading partner.

Administration officials insist, however, that intimidation is not Mr Bush's game. "Failure of the Uruguay Round could make our negotiations for regional trade agreements more difficult," says one White House official. He says that the Geneva-based

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) is the best forum for resolving key issues in America's trade deals with its partners to the south.

But Washington is still aggrieved that talks to reduce trade barriers collapsed in Brussels last December over disputes between the United States and Europe about reforming farm subsidies. In particular, the Americans took offence at what they saw as haughty remarks made by John Gummer, Britain's agriculture secretary.

Since taking office Mr Bush has tried to encourage economic development in the western hemisphere with a "trade not aid" refrain. In two years, he has signed framework bilateral agreements with Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico.

A US-Canada free-trade zone came into force 18 months ago. By the end of this month, Washington expects to sign a trade agreement with Caribbean nations. If these steps jolt the EC into a compromise on farming subsidies, Americans argue, then so much the better.

"The Uruguay Round is expected to double the world economy in a decade," says the White House official. "America will get from a quarter to a fifth of that." By contrast, the medium-term benefit for America of a free-trade zone of 360 million people in Canada, the United States and Mexico will be "quite minimal", he says. As a result, Mr Bush describes the satisfactory outcome of the Gatt talks as his "highest trade liberalisation priority".

In spite of the ungainly rhetoric, the G7 summit is not expected to resolve differences over Europe's large agricultural subsidies.

ENVIRONMENT

Leaders count the cost

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CONCERN for the environment brings to the London summit specific political charge and a potentially very large bill.

The politics focuses on next year's United Nations conference on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro, the so-called "earth summit", at which 150 heads of state are expected to map out an environmental future for the world. The bill, for \$1.6 billion (£975 million), is the price tag the Brazilian government has put on the pilot programme for protecting the Amazon rainforest, suggested by the G7 leaders in Houston last year.

John Major and his colleagues may not sign on the dotted line immediately, the size of the sum has raised eyebrows. Three sets of issues will be on the agenda in Rio, and Mr Major, with Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, at his elbow, would like to use the summit to put the united political weight of the G7 countries behind them.

The most contentious are the international environmental treaties now under negotiation for signing in Rio, the framework conventions on climate change, on forests, and on biodiversity (the preservation of threatened species). Climate change, in particular, is proving difficult, with the United States, alone of the major OECD countries, refusing to set a target for limiting its emission of the principal gas causing the greenhouse effect, carbon dioxide. In a speech on the environment last week Mr Major pointedly referred to the fact that the US alone was responsible for 23 per cent of world carbon dioxide emissions, and this unsuitable hint was followed by a series of strongly worded letters from Mr Heseltine to officials in the Bush administration.

NOTEBOOK

Cinderella of the summit awaits a chance to go to the ball

By JOE JOSEPH

POOR Mikhail Gorbachev. As if it wasn't bad enough coming along to a party where you have to explain to the doorman that although your name isn't on the official invitation list, you are sure the host would let you in if he knew you were waiting outside, he is being taken by John Major to see *Cinderella* at Covent Garden. The awkward choice of entertainment has made the Soviet leader's advisers wince, but they are not making a diplomatic fuss. "It's the choice of the host," a Soviet spokesman said from under his eyebrows yesterday. "Doubtless Mr Gorbachev and Mr Major will discuss the plot over dinner later that evening at Admiralty House." Just to make

sure Mikhail doesn't miss any nuance in the story of the spurned skulky maid, Mr Gorbachev will be taken to see the Queen at Buckingham Palace just before heading off to the Royal Opera House.

But the Russians are also bending over backwards to make it clear that they are not begging to go to the ball. "It would be naive to say that we expect Mr Gorbachev to come away with his black limousines filled with money," Vitaly Ignatenko, a Gorbachev aide, explained yesterday. "That's not the purpose of the meeting" with the Group of Seven leaders.

But just in case the G7 countries have a rush of blood to their heads and do hand over the dosh, the

five black, hand-tooled Zil limousines parked in the Soviet embassy compound could make useful getaway cars. Moscow is hoping for about \$35 billion (£21 billion) a year from the West. A Zil is about 18ft long and wide enough to sleep in lengthways on the back seat. Using \$100 bills, stuffing each limo with \$7 billion would not be that hard.

Security at Heathrow airport might be a problem, though. In Moscow, there is a special "party lane" down the middle of the road, specially reserved for speeding politburo Zils. Cars in Moscow won't budge for an ambulance, but they scatter like snooker balls when a Zil appears in their rear-view mirrors. In London, the Zils will have to try their luck in



Kohl: "Barbara Bush should sit on a Mexican cactus"

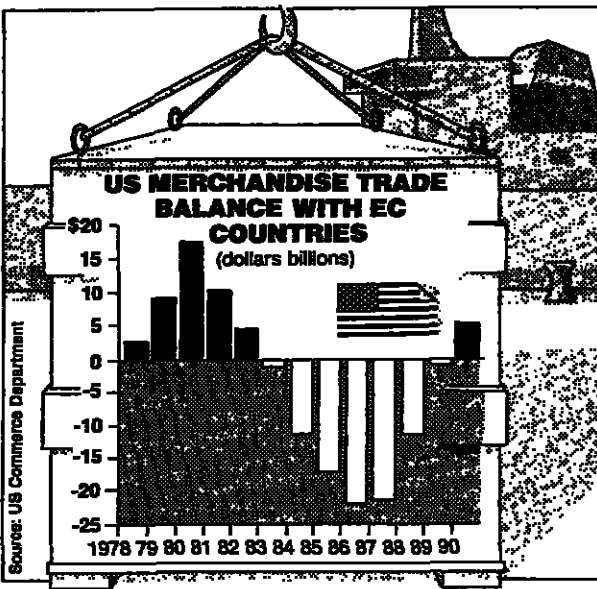
the bus lane. Although if they get stuck behind a No 11, the money might never make it to Moscow at all. Perhaps Francois Mitterrand didn't think he would get noticed

enough if he just turned up last to the summit meeting, his favourite ruse for upstaging his fellow world leaders. The French president only arrived in London yesterday morning, as if he had had a nagging feeling all weekend that he had something important to do on Monday but only remembered on Sunday night what it was. Just to make sure that we all noticed his presence, Mitterrand took an afternoon stroll through London, prompting a security alert. The other leaders all arrived for the meeting by car. Mitterrand, who is staying at The Ritz, decided to walk, ensuring that he turned up a full ten minutes after George Bush.

Nicholas Ridley will no doubt take it as further evidence that the

Germans are bent on taking over Europe. While the other summit wives ambled around Kew Gardens after their boat trip down the Thames, Hannelore Kohl, Helmut's wife, did a bit of electioneering by hugging seven-week Gareth Thomas. His mother, Angela, claimed later: "She said he was charming." Are there no EC laws that restrict such cross-border vote-pitching? Norma Major settled for writing. "It was wonderful," in the visitors' book.

All the wives seemed captivated by the tropical glasshouse. Frau Kohl and Barbara Bush joked about a Mexican cactus in the shape of a pouffe. Frau Kohl suggested Barbara sit on it. Oh, if only Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, had been there.



Evidence of Iraqi nuclear capability remains patchy

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A DETAILED report on Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme that will help the allied leaders to decide whether to launch a second round of military strikes, was presented to the United Nations Security Council yesterday.

The findings were disclosed by Hans Blix, director-general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the report paints an alarming picture of Iraqi concealment and evasion, evidence of a well-developed atomic weapons programme remains, however, frustratingly patchy, according to sources close to the UN investigation.

In London, Douglas Hurd,

the foreign secretary, made it clear yesterday that the government was prepared to use force if necessary to stop Iraq developing nuclear weapons. "We are ready to play our part in making sure, whatever that means, that Iraq does not become a nuclear power," he said in a BBC television interview.

It is still not clear, however, how close Iraq is to developing a nuclear bomb. What is beyond doubt is that Iraq has been engaged in three separate programmes to produce bomb-grade enriched uranium.

The inspectors are concerned, however, that evidence of the most sophisticated method, a centrifuge

system similar to ones used by Western nuclear powers, is still patchy. There is a strong suspicion that a huge concrete complex near Mosul in northern Iraq may be housing a centrifuge plant. The UN team has not yet been to the site, and it is feared that the equipment might have been removed and hidden elsewhere since the end of the Gulf war.

Iraq has admitted carrying out the three programmes using a gas centrifuge system, that is normally based on a "cascade" of 1,000 specially manufactured steel machines, to gradually build up the concentration of fissionable uranium 235; dissolving uranium in various types of acid to extract U235; and an electro-magnetic isotopic separation system, based on machines called calutrons.

The Iraqis claim to have produced only half a kilogram of 4 per cent enriched uranium using the calutron method. Twenty per cent is the critical threshold and bomb-quality enriched uranium is reached at 90 per cent or more. So, if Baghdad is telling the truth, the old-fashioned calutron system poses no serious threat.

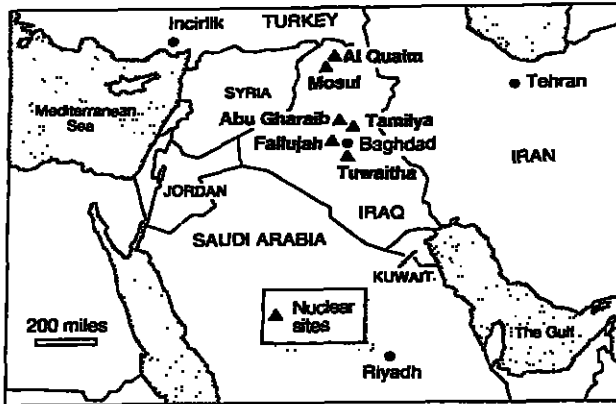
According to the sources, the inspection team has found no evidence of highly enriched uranium produced by the other two methods. The only fuel recovered by the team was 12 kilograms of 93 per cent grade uranium, which had been supplied by France for its nuclear reactors at Tuwaitha, south of Baghdad, and the stock of 80 per cent grade fuel supplied by the Soviet Union for the same research reactors.

This is where the investigation has caused confusion. When the UN inspectors first arrived, the Iraqis were only too willing to hand over the Tuwaitha reactor fuel. Some of the enriched uranium was still in sealed containers in spent fuel ponds beneath the rubble of the bombed site, and some was recovered from facilities close to Tuwaitha. The fuel is now being prepared for shipment to Britain and France where it will be reprocessed to a grade below 20 per cent.

However, when the inspectors announced other sites they wanted to visit at short notice, such as at Al-Qaim, Tarmiya, Abu Gharaib and Fallujah, the Iraqis prevaricated. The team has drawn up a list of about a dozen more sites that they hope to visit this week before finally leaving Iraq and reporting back on Monday.

The facility north of Mosul could provide damaging evidence, even if the Iraqis have removed the vital equipment. For if the Iraqis had succeeded in building a centrifuge system, they would need an extensive local electricity supply. This could be checked, the sources said.

Desert Storm II, page 14



Baghdad fear of attack increases

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ repeated yesterday that it expected the United States to attack it even though it had promised to divulge all its nuclear secrets. This was because Washington wanted Israel to dominate the Middle East, it said.

"The premeditated objective is destroying Iraq in the service of Zionism and implementing Israel's plans in the region," the prime minister, Saddam Hammadi, said at a news conference in Baghdad, adding: "The intention and determination to destroy Iraq and to destroy its political system still exists."

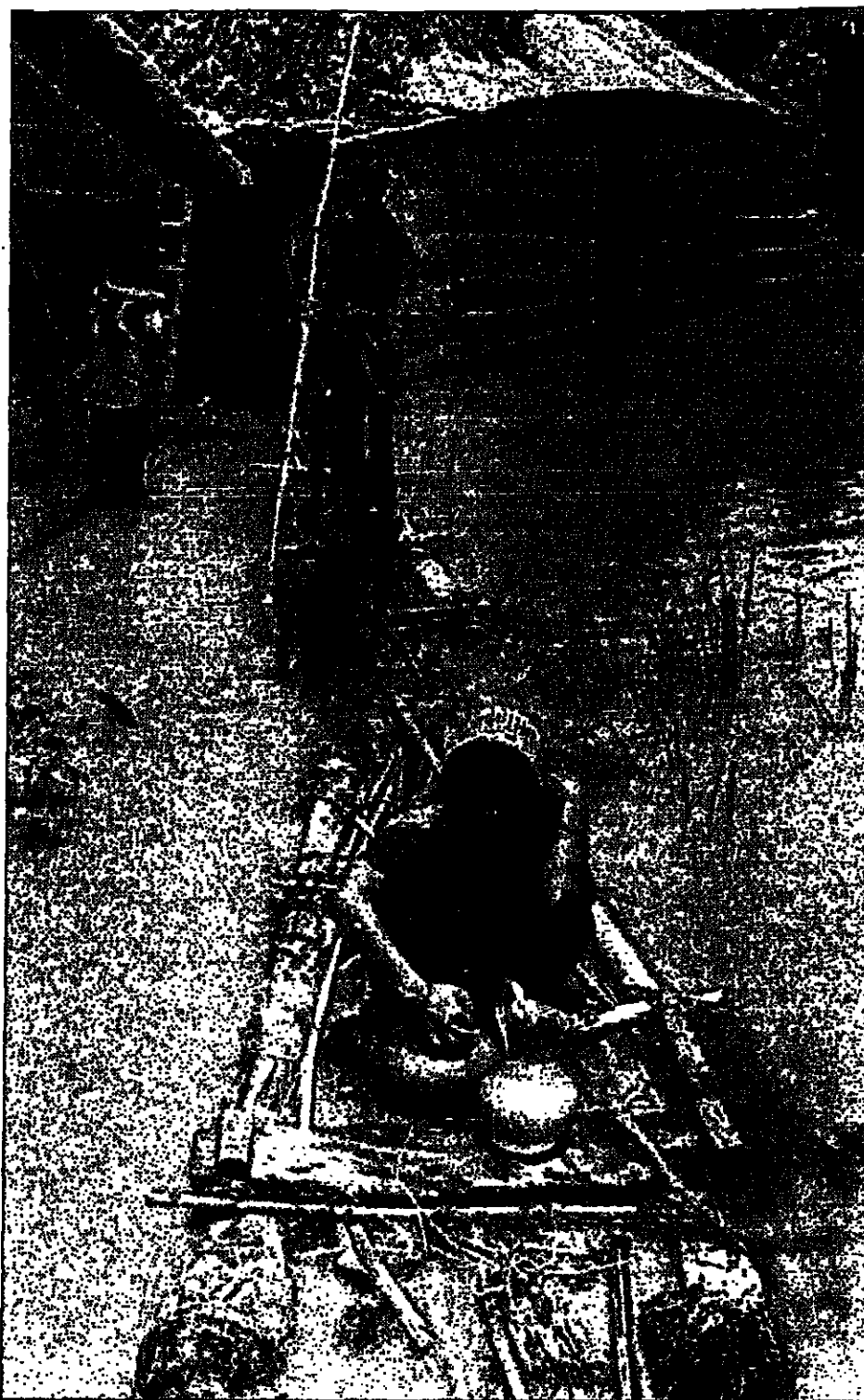
Iraq made similar claims last year in the wake of the super-gun and nuclear-trigger scandals, maintaining that Israel, with the support of the United States, was seeking a pretext to attack it. This view held sufficient currency in the Arab world to ensure that an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad was very well attended.

Many people believed the United States was concerned that Iraq's rapid military resurgence after its war with Iran was challenging Israel's regional supremacy. Two months later the conspiracy theory being projected by Iraq, that it was a potential victim, was much harder to sustain when it invaded Kuwait.

Iraq's call on Saturday for a similar emergency Arab summit to discuss this latest "conspiracy" has so far had no response.

Mr Hammadi said President Bush was insisting that sanctions remain in force in the hope that it would lead to the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein. The latter, diplomats say, hopes that the suffering of the Iraqi people will become too great for the UN sanctions committee to bear much longer, which is why, until President Bush threatened renewed air attacks, he felt he could get away with lying about Iraq's nuclear programme.

Mr Hammadi also made it clear that Iraq was looking for a quid pro quo for the release of the jailed British engineer, Ian Richter. He said Baghdad and London were in contact and he hoped that Mr Richter would soon be freed. "If we find a positive reaction on the side of the British government," he said Mr Richter's case was related to other issues, in particular to Iraqi assets frozen in Britain which Baghdad wants released to buy urgently needed food and medicines. Britain has made clear it will not support the lifting of the trade embargo until Iraq frees Mr Richter, aged 46, jailed five years ago.



Survival tactics: villagers in the Kaptur district of Bangladesh using a raft made from banana trees to fetch drinking water yesterday. Forty-one people have died in the floods gripping eight northern districts, and more than a million people have been marooned. The floods have also affected neighbouring areas of northeast India. Officials in Dhaka said the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and their tributaries, fed by the monsoon, had overflowed their banks in ten districts. In Sirajganj, the worst-hit area, about 500,000 people had to leave their homes. (AP)

America urges Israel to reconsider peace talks

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS THE Israeli government yesterday gave a heavily guarded welcome to Syria's reply to American peace proposals, the United States urged Israel to reconsider its rejection of President Bush's formula for a Middle East peace conference. Syria appeared to have accepted that formula on Sunday.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was said to be contemplating a fifth trip to the Middle East following the Syrian response, possibly as early as this week after accompanying Mr Bush from London to Greece and Turkey. Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said the Syrian reply offered "new possibilities that need to be explored."

Opposition leaders gave a warning that Israel might be on a collision course with Washington. Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said that he did not believe America



would put pressure on Israel to modify its position, adding that a change in Syria's stance would be welcome. "If... Syria's reply to President Bush proves to be positive, this would have to mean that Syria is ready to negotiate with Israel," he told members of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee. David Levy, the foreign minister, also said Israel would welcome a Syrian change, but said Damascus had been guilty of delaying the peace process. Israel last month rejected the American

proposals, on the grounds that it could not accept any United Nations role in the peace conference, nor the idea of a conference of longer than one session.

The opposition Labour Party leader, Shimon Peres, said that it had been the prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, who had made such a point of involving Syria, and that now he had to live with the consequences. Mr Peres warned Mr Shamir not to look for a way out of a trap of his own making. "If he does, we will be setting out on a collision course with the United States, something which none of us wants," he said. "In this case, Israel must respond positively."

Palestinians in the occupied territories gave a cautious welcome to the news. "I think there will be movement now," said university professor Hanan Ashrawi. "The Americans are quite serious."

Amnesty says UN must aid Saddam victims

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMNESTY International said early today that Iraqi troops killed "countless" civilians after the Shia Muslim and Kurdish uprisings in the wake of the Gulf war.

Hundreds of unarmed civilians were shot dead in the streets or killed by firing squads and many more were killed when helicopter gunships attacked refugees fleeing to Iraq's borders, according to preliminary findings published by Amnesty at midnight. The London-based human rights organisation urged the United Nations to set up an operation in Iraq to monitor human rights violations there.

Amnesty said it had interviewed more than 500 victims and witnesses who spoke of "widespread arrests, torture and mass extrajudicial executions of individuals suspected of having taken part in the uprising". It added: "Unarmed civilians, including women and children, were also deliberately targeted by helicopter gunships as they fled towards the borders of Iraq. Women and children were reportedly seen by eye-witnesses being used as 'human shields', placed on top of tanks which were used to bombard residential areas of the town of Tammuna in the south."

Amnesty said it was "deeply concerned" for the lives and safety of hundreds of thousands of Kurds, Arab Shia Muslims and others in Iraq whom it believes to be at serious risk of arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. It called Baghdad's actions to crush the uprisings "brutal in the extreme" even by the Iraqi government's past record.

"The UN has a continuing responsibility to address the human rights situation in Iraq and to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the civilian population at this critical time," it said. "The international community cannot once again stand by and wait until further violations are committed."

"What is needed urgently are durable preventive measures to protect the population from further repression. In addition, there must be established verifiable international guarantees to ensure that Iraq strictly adheres to its international obligations in the field of human rights."

Amnesty said the special UN operation should have the power to investigate alleged abuses, ensure protection for victims and work with the Iraqi government to enforce international standards. It should be able to visit detention centres, speak with political prisoners, sit in on trials and act to protect anyone whose life was in danger.

Recent revelations of human rights violations in Iraq had "shocked the world", Amnesty said, but had been the norm for a decade.

Colombo deploys navy to break siege

Colombo - Sri Lankan naval vessels have joined a big military offensive to end the siege by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of a key army camp in northern Sri Lanka, government officials here said yesterday.

Military officials said sea-borne troops landed on a beach close to the besieged Elephant Pass camp as naval gunboats shelled positions held by the Tigers along the coast. "Our troops have now established a beachhead at Vettalaikkani," a military spokesman said. He added that the troops would conduct a ground offensive because aircraft were unable to land inside the besieged camp to help the trapped soldiers and evacuate dozens of wounded.

Officials would not say how many troops were involved, but the *Daily Observer* claimed the navy had ferried about 1,000 men to reinforce the Elephant Pass base. (AFP)

Coup foiled

Bamako - A coup attempt has been foiled in Mali and the alleged ringleader, Captain Lamine Diabira, the territorial administration minister, and other suspected plotters have been detained, official sources said. Few details were available, but troops at the key army base at Kati were said to have been involved. (Reuters)

Talks resume

Vienna - North Korea began talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency in a third attempt to agree to open its nuclear plants to inspection. Talks last year and last month came to nothing after North Korea demanded that the United States must open its bases in South Korea in return. (Reuters)

Rao wins vote

Delhi - The newly formed minority government headed by the prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, won a vote of confidence in the Indian parliament by 241 votes to 111, with 112 MPs abstaining. The abstentions were from the opposition left front alliance of the Janata Dal and the communist parties.

Arafat in crash

Amman - Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, escaped unhurt when his bullet-proof car hit a bump and overturned at high speed on the road to Amman from Baghdad, where he had held talks with President Saddam Hussein, Palestinian officials said. (Reuters)

Fossil theft

Adelaide - Thieves have stolen a 600-million-year-old rock imprint which was hidden deep in the isolated Flinders Ranges national park in South Australia. The slab of quartzite rock weighed about 400kg and contained the clear impression of a seapen, related to corals and jellyfish. (Reuters)

Kaunda file goes missing

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE prosecution file in the murder trial of Kambarage Kaunda, the 26-year-old son of President Kaunda, was found to have vanished mysteriously yesterday. Judge Clever Musumali adjourned the high court trial for two days.

Kaunda has pleaded not guilty to having shot and killed a girl aged 20 who was allegedly part of a mob that attacked his car in a poor area of Lusaka in 1989. At the start of the trial, the judge raised the charges from manslaughter to murder on evidence produced at a preliminary hearing. Last week, two British lawyers engaged to defend Kaunda were barred from practising in the Zambian legal system. They were disqualified by laws introduced by President Kaunda last year to prevent foreign lawyers from representing opposition politicians.

Since last year, when he conceded to openly contested elections after 18 years of one-party rule, President Kaunda and his family have faced increasing public antagonism. On Sunday at an international soccer match in Lusaka his car was pelted with stones, bottles and beer cans by angry spectators as the presidential limousine was driven on to the pitch for the customary greeting.

Winnie Mandela petitions court for leave to appeal

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela will apply to the Rand supreme court today for leave to appeal against her six-year prison sentence for kidnapping and being an accessory to assault. The hearing is likely to have profound political implications.

Defence lawyers will present an 11-page application to Mr Justice Michael Stegmann, asking him to refer the case to the appeal court in Bloemfontein, South Africa's highest tribunal. The petition suggests that Mr Justice Stegmann, who presided at the original trial without assessors (South Africa has no jury system), misdirected himself on several points and erred in his finding that it had been proved beyond reasonable doubt that Mandela had been party to a conspiracy to kidnap four black youths from a church mission in Soweto.

The judge is expected to give his ruling immediately. Even if the application is successful, it could take up to two years for the appeal court to review the case because of a backlog of appeals. Should the application be refused, Mandela's lawyers are entitled, as a last resort, to petition the chief justice, who could be expected to reply within months.

In pronouncing his verdict in May, Mr Justice Stegmann found that Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, had been delib-

erately vague, calculating, and brazenly untruthful in attempts to mislead the court. Reviewing the kidnapping and subsequent assault of the youths, he said that trying to imagine the incident without Mandela being the leading light was like trying to imagine *Hamlet* without the prince.

Judicial sources said judges were under instructions from



Mandela: appeal crucial to her political career

the appeal court not to refer cases simply to have their judgments upheld. Leave to appeal should be granted only when there was a reasonable chance of the appellant succeeding.

The outcome of today's hearing is of crucial importance to Mandela's political career. She preserved a vestige of power by being

elected to an enlarged ANC executive committee last month. Three other women, however, were elected with more votes and she was previously beaten by Gertrude Shope, an exile for many years, for the post of president of the ANC women's league.

Controversy over her imperious behaviour in Soweto, culminating in her loss of prestige. A successful application to appeal would go some way towards restoring her tarnished image as "mother of the nation" and would probably delay a final ruling until the ANC is on the verge of forming part of a multiracial government.

● Lagos: President Babangida of Nigeria and chairman of the Organisation of African Unity yesterday denounced the lifting of American economic sanctions against South Africa as a gigantic setback for the forces of democracy.

He said that the decision also undermined a "shining period" in American policy towards Africa. "It is decidedly a gigantic setback for the democratic movement and commitment to total liberation which has mustered force inside South Africa and internationally in the past four decades." The special committee on Southern Africa would meet "to consider the most appropriate way to support the struggle in the present circumstances". (Reuters)

Manila and US near base deal

FROM REUTER IN MANILA

THE Philippines said yesterday that it was near agreement with the United States on a new military base treaty after Washington gave notice that it would abandon the volcano-ravaged Clark air force base.

Raul Manglapus, the foreign secretary, indicated after talks with Richard Armitage, the American envoy, that Washington would pay less than the \$825 million (\$503 million) a year Manila had demanded for the new treaty because of American plans to relinquish Clark. The treaty may be ready before Mr Manglapus leaves for Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, officials said.

Mount Pinatubo, where eruptions continued for a 37th day yesterday, smothered Clark and the Subic naval station in ash and forced more than 20,000 American servicemen and their dependants to leave.

A formal decision to abandon Clark would be made by Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, diplomatic sources said.

● Angeles: Ted Medina, a left-wing insurgent leader, said yesterday that his banned organisation, the National Democratic Front, doubted Washington's hint that it may abandon Clark air base and would resume attacks on American servicemen. (AFP)

Sumo idol bows out of ring to fight the flab

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

WHEN sumo wrestling grand champion Onokuni took a tremendous tumble in the ring and bounced unceremoniously into the crowd, pudgy arms and legs akimbo, he decided that this would be his last submission to inelegant defeat in front of television cameras.

Onokuni, aged 28 and known endearingly to fans as "The Giant Panda" on account of his large dark eyes and shambling gait, has finally hung up his loincloth and yesterday handed in his letter of resignation to the Japan Sumo Association. Onokuni's departure from the ring means he will forgo the chance to fight this October in Japan's first official overseas sumo tournament, to be staged in a specially reinforced Royal Albert Hall as part of the Japan Festival.

Lauded as sumo's fastest fighter and the housewives' choice when he was promoted to "yokozuna" champion in 1987, Onokuni's career never quite flourished as anticipated. Yesterday's resignation came after his fourth loss in the current Nagoya tournament and followed an 18-month series of humiliating defeats.

Sumo's doe-eyed former

darling of the ring, who tips the scales at 413lb, has had trouble keeping his overburdened bones intact. A broken ankle last year forced him to sit out four of the last eight bi-monthly tournaments. Having attained the top wrestling rank, however, Onokuni bows out a hero, for the 1,000-year-old cultural traditions which surround sumo place its champions at the pinnacle of Japan's sports pantheon. Like all retiring wrestlers, the Giant Panda will undergo a ritual



topknot-snipping ceremony in the presence of sumo elders and his own "stable master".

Next May he will inherit his own sumo stable, one of Japan's last bastions of military discipline where aspiring young fighters will be force-fed and endurance-tested until they turn into fighting machines. Sumo

shares boxing's tradition for making rich heroes out of the underprivileged. Onokuni, who hails from a humble background in Hokkaido, Japan's northern island, was talent spotted as a porky 15-year-old, and spent nine years munching his way to the fighting fitness of a champion. Only one in 300 make the grade and the rewards are bountiful.

Today's yokozuna rakes in more than £5 million a year. Few are without glamorous wives who are drawn by the money and prestige. Three years ago the Giant Panda married the beautiful, petite daughter of a fan.

With lucrative careers in television, advertising and the catering industry beckoning, Onokuni will be advised to slim down fast if he wishes to cash in on his fame, for diabetes claims the lives of many of sumo's weightier fighters shortly after leaving the ring. Accustomed to wolfing down maximum calorie blow-outs every day swilled down with beer by the barrel and then being laid out to rest, sated and exhausted, Onokuni will need every ounce of mental discipline to shrink his cavernous stomach and conquer his weakness for ice creams.

Croat army to abandon

Serb won ready to beside m

Race hatr

Croats say federal army forced them to abandon villages

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EUROPEAN Community observers were expected in Zagreb yesterday evening only hours after the Croatian government claimed that it had been forced to abandon two villages under fire from the Yugoslav army.

According to the Croatian deputy minister of the interior, Milan Brezak, tanks, which were stationed in the rebel Serb village of Jakubovac, opened fire on Croatian units in two neighbouring villages of mixed population which the Croats had only just recaptured from Serb militiamen after fierce fighting. Mr Brezak said that the clashes, 50 miles south east of Zagreb, had cost two dead and 17 wounded from the Croatian side.

Reports from Vienna said that Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, has urged Yugoslavia's neighbours not to interfere in the country's internal affairs, but to show responsibility in its conflict.

According to a letter published in *Profil*, an Austrian magazine, yesterday, Mr Bessmertnykh wrote to Alois Mock, his Austrian counterpart, attacking the delivery of arms to Yugoslavia in the months leading up to the conflict, without the knowledge of its legitimate government. He made no specific reference to Austria or Hungary, but he condemned the numerous overtures he said were made to supporters of the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

"It is very important that Yugoslavia's neighbours, even if they share common historical roots, do not let themselves be influenced by those who are looking backward... or allow themselves to be stirred by the nostalgic memory of former Balkan structures, forgetting their tragic role as the powder keg of Europe," he wrote.

He warned Herr Mock that unless there is a stop to attempts to meddle in Yugoslav internal affairs, all the conditions would be there to bring about the situation that existed at the beginning of the century.

The Yugoslav government said yesterday that it would cut the 1991 federal budget by 60 per cent as part of what it called shock therapy to avert economic collapse. The information secretary told Tanjug news agency the budget would be reduced from the planned 163 billion dinars (£4.3 billion) to around 100 billion dinars.

The cut is part of a plan outlined by the government last week to prevent the economy collapsing within weeks because of political disputes among Yugoslavia's six republics.

Under the plan, which diplomats said does not need parliamentary approval, the government would restrict money supply, limit spending and freeze all selective credits. The budget cutback was intended to restrict federal government intervention in the economy.

As the situation remained tense the federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, visited Zagreb yesterday for talks with the Croatian prime minister, Josip Manolic. However, in a press conference afterwards Mr Markovic talked about the urgency of rebuilding Yugoslavia's shattered economy and about the country's need for a \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) loan in the near future.

Mr Manolic said he had made various proposals to Mr Markovic for resolving the crisis and that they had had "heated discussions" about the withdrawal of the army to barracks, a fundamental demand of the EC-brokered peace accord.

He added: "A faction of the army has escaped the control of the federal government... the first thing is to prevent the participation of the army in this dirty war. The army is destabilising Croatia."

The Croats have consistently claimed that the army is working in tandem with Serb extremists.

Republican leaders and the country's federal presidency are due to meet today on the Adriatic island of Brioni but no breakthroughs are expected. Some reports said the meeting may not take place because several key figures have said they would not attend.

Serb women get ready to fight beside menfolk

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN KINJA, YUGOSLAVIA

MARTA was resplendent in glossy raspberry lipstick, with her dark hair secured by a black satin bow that did not quite go with her khaki combat gear. But, she said, you should not have to lose your femininity just because you want to save your country.

One of 50 new female recruits to Serbia's militia in the enclave of Krajina, enclosed on three sides by Croatia, she gave up her studies to answer the call for women to join up. They are part of a special task force defending the area where 600,000 Serbs live against what their leaders see as the designs of Croatia to take it over and expel them.

Known locally as the "Kinja" after the oriental martial arts, they have been put through their paces by Captain Dragan (for security reasons it is first names only here), a Serbian soldier of fortune who has returned to his homeland to knock the unofficial troops into shape. Together with their male colleagues, the women have trained 18 hours a day for three weeks before beginning their duties. "There is more emphasis on administration and intelligence work for them, but they are trained in the basic methods of patrol and combat as well," the captain said.

He added that they had settled well into paramilitary life. "Many want to go out into the field with the men. At the moment, we don't have the separate facilities for that, but they get cross when they see the men going off while they have to stay in the locality."

Corporal Dragana, whose black tights are just visible above her stout shoes, is a tough sulky at being assigned a headquarters post in Kinja's medieval fortress. "I know how to kill people," she said. But could she? "Yes, if they were an enemy of my people invading our territory."

The highest-ranked woman is a lieutenant, but Captain Dragan maintains that he also has many unranked women working in intelligence. "Women are great spies," he said. "We have recruited many secretaries within the enemy ranks. I have had important information from them an hour before it has landed on the desk of the Croatian defence minister."

Whether or not the secret regiment of women is as effective as the captain says is open to doubt. But he has secured a rare propaganda coup for the Serbian forces, who have otherwise been losing out in the battle for Western sympathies thanks to their reputation for rough manners and their closeness to the hard-line federal army. The Kinja, by contrast, are encouraged to present a civilised, almost dainty image. Many wear jewellery and sunglasses to complete an image more reminiscent of Hollywood than the parade ground.

By mobilising women, the Krajina militia has cleverly drawn into the conflict a group which was otherwise considered unwilling to support the violence. Serbian women have until now been prominent only as anxious mothers haranguing the federal army general to send their boys home.

The attitudes of their male colleagues however do much to dispel the myth that women are the cattier sex. Scarcely recognised for his conversion to the mores of the New Man, the Serbian male will, it seems, share chats and cigarettes with the new recruits in a convincing show of camaraderie, only to bitch about them among themselves.

"They are always complaining that the uniforms are too hot," said one. "They don't even have to wear proper fighting boots. How can you be a soldier with buckles on your shoes?"

Bessmertnykh urged an end to meddling



Goddess returns in triumph

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN



Former glory: workmen making the final adjustments to Nike, the goddess of victory, after she was restored to the top of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin yesterday

AMID controversy and angst, Nike, the winged Greek goddess of victory, was yesterday hoisted back to the top of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin in preparation for the monument's 200th birthday celebrations on August 6.

Almost destroyed a year and a half ago by joyful souvenir hunters on the first New Year's Eve after the Berlin Wall came down, Nike and her four horses have spent the past 15 months having a £100,000 renovation to protect her from vandals and the environment.

Over a thousand people turned out yesterday to watch as a crane lowered the copper statue and her chariot onto the 60 foot high gate. Typically for modern Germany, however, the return of the goddess has provoked a profound argument about what she ought to symbolise. When she was locked away behind the wall staring eastwards down Unter den Linden at the decaying communist state, the triumphalism she once represented did not matter.

In a united country, however, Nike's return with Iron Cross and Prussian Eagle on her staff, has created worries that she will give the wrong message to the world about German ambitions for the future. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, has also run into criticism over his plan, announced yesterday, to attend the ceremony taking place in Potsdam on August 17, when the remains of Frederick the Great of Prussia are to be moved. Fran Herta Daubler-Gmellin, deputy chairman of the opposition Social Democrats complained that this would rouse mistrust in Germany's neighbours.

Similar arguments are being roused by the statue of Nike. Two hundred years ago she was designed by Johann Schadow, court sculptor to King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia, to represent Irene, the goddess of peace. Napoleon changed all that. When he arrived in the city fresh from his triumph at Jena in 1806 he liked the look of the statue and decided to pack it up and send it back to Paris as part of his booty. The goddess lived in exile for eight years until Field Mar-

shall Blucher secured her release in 1814 after Napoleon's first defeat.

She returned in triumph, not as Irene but as Nike, complete with cross, oak leaves, and eagle. As such she presided over the victory parades of the Prussians, the German Empire and the Third Reich. In

1945, however, the gate was and the statue was badly damaged in the battle for the city.

Using the scrap and pictures as a model the East German government managed to copy and replace the statue in 1958 without the victory symbols, carefully describing her in the official

guidebooks as "the peace goddess. Now Friedbert Pfleger, a Christian Democrat Bundestag member from the west German state of Lower Saxony, has started a protest movement about the symbols of victory on her staff.

German architect, page 12

Ministers clash on EC farm reforms

Brussels - The European Community's latest plan to cut farm subsidies ran into criticism from national agriculture ministers, suggesting slow progress ahead for common agricultural policy reforms (George Brock writes).

The subsidy changes may make or break world trade talks stalled over the farm subsidy question and which are being discussed at the G7 summit in London.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, told colleagues that Britain could not accept reforms which penalise large and efficient farmers at the expense of small, un-economic producers.

Army murders

Moscow - Ten Soviet soldiers were shot dead by two colleagues as they slept, Tass reported. The killers fled, taking two sub-machineguns with them. Roadblocks were set up in the area, near Ulyanovsk, on the Volga river east of Moscow. No motive for the killings was known, Tass said. (Reuters)

Semtex on sale

Semtex, the explosive, has gone on sale again in Czechoslovakia following the approval of an international tagging system. Under the previous regime, about 1,000 tonnes of Semtex were sold to Libya by the import-export arms company, Omnipol, but the new government halted sales last year.

'Spy' charged

Karlsruhe - A weapons expert at the Bonn defence ministry, named only as Ulrich, aged 46, has been charged with passing military secrets to what was East Germany for a period of 20 years during the Cold War. He was a communist sympathiser and was not paid for his undercover activity. (Reuters)

Defence dilemma

Stockholm - Sweden might have to redefine its neutrality before it can join the European Community. Martin Bangemann, the vice-president of the European Commission, said here. "What I cannot envisage is a situation where one member country refuses to help defend another member." (Reuters)

Papandreou trial resumes

FROM CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

A FORMER banking tycoon alleged in court yesterday that Andreas Papandreou, the former socialist prime minister, and his Pasok party were involved in illegal arms deals through companies in London, elsewhere in Europe and in South America.

Resuming his evidence after a two-month break because of a lawyers' strike, George Koskotas, previously owner of the Bank of Crete, said that Mr Papandreou on at least four occasions instructed him to deposit two sums, one of \$8.25 million (£5 million) and the other of \$481,500, at the Commerce Bank in London. He also paid sums of \$50,000 and \$455,100 into a bank in Panama. Mr Koskotas produced what he claimed were instructions in Mr Papandreou's handwriting given to him at a meeting on June 30, 1988.

He repeated his earlier allegations that the opposition leader, aged 72, had blackmailed him into illegally diverting funds.



Bessmertnykh urged an end to meddling

IN THE MORNING THEY'LL DISAPPEAR LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

Race hatred darkens Breton haven

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

SIMMERING racial tension in France, as the long summer holidays begin, was crudely and disturbingly underlined early yesterday with the discovery of swastikas daubed in the *mairie* of the tiny Breton community of Saint-Coulitz.

The mayor of the village, which has a population of about 400, is Kofi Yamgnane, born in Togo and recently appointed the first naturalised black government minister, responsible for trying to smooth the way to peaceful integration of France's large and increasingly diversified immigrant community.

According to M Yamgnane, who is married to a local girl, is very popular and has been voted best mayor in Brittany and Breton of the year, it is inconceivable that local people were responsible for the incident. He said yesterday that it must have been the work of outsiders. "I don't think it is going to be widely repeated."

Apart from the two spray-painted black swastikas, the date "July 14" had also been inscribed in the *mairie*. "What really concerns me is this attempt to amalgamate the Nazi insignia with the values of Bastille day, which stands for so much in terms of the right of man," M Yamgnane said. "It is a way of attacking our republic and myself, whom some have called more republican than most."

Nobody understands better than M Yamgnane what ugly racial passions lurk beneath the surface of French life. His appointment by Edith Cresson, the prime minister, was greeted by a flurry of hate mail. "It was dirty nigger, plenty of that sort of thing," he observed with the equanimity of someone who was once reviled for daring to offer his seat in the Metro to a French woman.

But M Yamgnane was quick to point out that there were also plenty of "beautiful" letters from people who hailed his arrival in the government as a sign of better things to come. Without illusions about the magnitude of his task, at a moment when most observers consider France's immigrant ghettos have never been closer to exploding, he insists: "I am not alone."

But incidents like this can only heighten apprehension on the part of the authorities and the organisations working with immigrant communities. To the extreme right-wing National Front party - whose leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, greeted M Yamgnane's appointment with some typically offensive remarks - any opportunity to reap the benefits of racial discord is not to be missed.

M Yamgnane has refused to rise to the bait, steering an increasingly difficult course between the immigrant communities and the government he represents with no little skill. Mme Cresson's recent musings on the possibility of returning illegal immigrants to their country of origin did not make his job easier.

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CORDULA

Same top name, same signature look, different price tag — Liz Smith reports on the success of lower-priced 'diffusion' lines



Cheaper chic: left, Saint Laurent Variation cherry pink wool jacket and skirt. Centre, Kors black cotton blazer, pink cotton sarong and white T-shirt. Right, Pollen B black/white check polyester viscose jacket and skirt. Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

Architect of the new Germany

Karl Friedrich Schinkel gave Prussia its finest buildings, and the Iron Cross

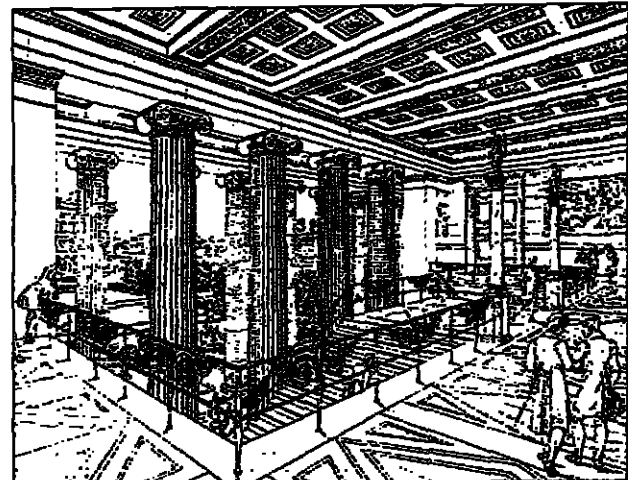
The first exhibition to come from Germany since reunification celebrates one of the greatest 19th century architects, a man who was also a gifted painter and designer. "Karl Friedrich Schinkel: a Universal Man" opens at the Victoria & Albert Museum on July 31, and brings to Britain material drawn from both sides of the former Berlin divide.

In a relatively short lifetime (he died at the age of 60), Schinkel worked in both the Romantic and neoclassical idioms, but his greatest legacy was his own classical style, a precursor of Modernism. Schinkel was born in Brandenburg on March 13, 1781, into a poor, pre-industrial Prussia. His youth was overshadowed by the Napoleonic wars and, like many young men of his day, he was fired by a nationalism which drew on history for its inspiration. Many of Schinkel's early architectural drawings are in the Gothic style, but in a war-

wracked country there was little opportunity for new building.

In 1810 Schinkel was appointed an official state architect and designer, a position he held until his death in office in 1841. So it was to him that the king, Friedrich Wilhelm III, turned for the design of a new military medal. Shortly before the war of liberation against Napoleon, the king instituted the Iron Cross, which was to become the best-known Prussian medal for gallantry. German Romanticism had reached its high point in Berlin in about 1810 and, drawing on the spirit of the age, Schinkel turned to the cross and colours of the Teutonic Order for inspiration. Made in iron mounted on silver, the medal's low material value recalled the hard times in which it was instituted.

Schinkel saw Gothic architecture as the counterbalance to the Greek classical tradition. In the next two decades, when he produced



Classical: Schinkel's design for the Altes museum in Berlin

some of his finest work, he used both idioms. His new guardhouse (*Neue Wache*) for the royal palace, his theatre (*Schauspielhaus*) and the Altes museum, all in the neoclassical style, are among the great landmarks of Berlin.

Between 1803 and 1805 Schinkel travelled through Germany, Austria and Italy, studying the great Gothic cathedrals and acquiring knowledge he used in his approach to ecclesiastical buildings and monuments. Sometimes, for lack of finance, they remained unbuilt, like the great memorial cathedral to the Wars of Liberation intended for the Leipziger Platz. The exhibition will include many of these designs.

The tough demands of the Prussian building industry gradually weaned Schinkel from the Romantic style. He struggled to transcend the Gothic and neoclassical and develop new technical and construction methods. In 1826 he set out for London



Karl Friedrich Schinkel

making 152 sketches and keeping a detailed diary. This record, together with his letters home to his wife, will form the basis of a parallel exhibition to be held at the Goethe-Institut in London. The architect was deeply impressed by Britain's brick warehouses and factories in the industrial cities.

Schinkel's greatest contribution to Berlin was to reintroduce the tradition of Gothic brick, unrendered and without stucco. Since building stone was scarce he sought to instil charm into the cheaper material by ingenuity of design and quality of craftsmanship, always keeping function to the fore. His design for the architectural academy in 1831, executed in brick and terracotta, helped to inspire hundreds of brick buildings for the rest of the 19th century.

GERALDINE RANSON

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● "Karl Friedrich Schinkel: A Universal Man", Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 July 31-October 27. "Travels in England, Scotland and Wales", Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7, July 31-September 20. Karl Friedrich Schinkel: A Universal Man, Yale University Press, £30 (paperback £16.95).

Pure designers, dilute to taste

Anyone who imagines that the market for designer clothes has shrunk in the recession has underestimated the single-mindedness of the true fashion snob. A designer label need not cost a designer price. Most of the top international names are busy sketching lower-priced secondary lines to stay in business and keep alive their signature style. Known as diffusion lines — because they diffuse the essence of the designer look with less expensive cloth and simpler detailing — they satisfy the customer who enjoys a status label, but who is not prepared to pay the status price of most top-name collections.

Yves Saint Laurent's Variation range of sharp-shouldered suits with regimented lines of buttons is unmistakably Yves, yet it is priced 40 per cent down on his main Rive Gauche collection (Variation jacket £285, skirt £135; Rive Gauche jacket £750, skirt £220). Valentino not only has his Miss V line, priced 35 per cent below his boutique collection, but also the Oliver label, which adapts his flirty ideas into a zesty, younger style and sells at a further 30 per cent down on Miss V.

You can buy Giorgio Armani's look for less in his Mani line. Versace has Versus, Galliano has Girl and Byblos sells Beyond. Alliteration is popular, but initials sell clothes best of all. Jean-Paul Gaultier's JPG diffusion line, KL by Karl Lagerfeld, and the new G for Gigli all satisfy the fashion aficionado anxious to wear the real thing without spending a fortune. Donna Karan, who simply tacked NY on to her own initials when she launched her diffusion line in spring 1989, has shaken up the competition with the international success of DKNY, available here at Harvey Nichols.

Harrods and House of Fraser stores. The launch comes a year after Courtaulds Textiles bought a minority stake in her company, and provided her with the infrastructure to produce and deliver her goods more efficiently. Ms Pollen arrived on the scene in 1981, aged



From left: the high-priced Saint Laurent, Kors and Pollen B collection forerunners of the diffusion lines shown above

Until now only John Galiano, Katharine Hammett, Jean Muir and Rifat Ozbek, among top British designers, have spread their net with secondary lines. Add Girl, Active, Studio and Future to their names respectively for each one's diffusion label. Now Arabella Pollen is celebrating her tenth year in the fashion business with the launch last week of Pollen B.

"It is the logical thing to do," she says. "Nobody makes big money from their top range. There is a limit to the number of customers for high-priced clothes." Like every other designer with a diffusion range, she is being generous with the familiar details that sum up her look. A blazer (£340 in the main collection) worn with hipster skirt (£160) is classic Pollen. And this is re-created for Pollen B (at £170, and £75 for the skirt), right down to the familiar plastic, neon-coloured buttons that have brightened up her jackets this season. Ms Pollen looks on Pollen B as an exercise in design discipline, a way of defining her own style as precisely and simply as possible.

The launch comes a year after Courtaulds Textiles bought a minority stake in her company, and provided her with the infrastructure to produce and deliver her goods more efficiently. Ms Pollen arrived on the scene in 1981, aged

20 and with no formal training. She had instant success selling one of her first designs, a military-style coat in Hebridean tweed, to another newcomer in 1981, the Princess of Wales. Like many designers she struggled in her first years, helped initially by her first backer, Naim Attallah. Only in 1986 did she feel she had developed her "look", with taffeta puffball skirts and neat program jackets in black and white. The following year she was joined by the designer Tina Loder, who has worked as her assistant ever since.

Further lines are in development, for which Ms Pollen plans to run through the alphabet, with Pollen C for classics and Pollen T for T-shirts. Sales of Pollen clothes to America have increased 400 per cent in the last year.

In American stores the new line will sell alongside clothes by two of New York's new generation of design stars, Isaac Mizrahi and Michael Kors. Parallels between the careers of Ms Pollen and Mr Kors, one quintessentially English and the other a native New Yorker, have often been drawn. Both started in business in 1981 and have slowly built up a loyal following for their updated versions of the classics. Mr Kors studied design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, but dropped out when he was offered a job at Lothar Fashions in New York.

He is a purist whose own wardrobe, as well as the clothes he designs, is mostly in neutrals — navy, khaki, black and white. After nine years his career, too, has taken off, with a swimwear collection for Trufo and his secondary line, Kors (available at Harvey Nichols), both launched this year. His definitive look, like Ms Pollen's, is a blazer worn with T-shirt and a skirt slung low on the hips — his is usually a wraparound sarong.

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BRIEFING

Hung up in Hull

THIS *opus mirabilis* for remodelled British art galleries continues. Hard on the heels of the newly improved Royal Academy, National Gallery and National Museum of Wales comes the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull. The chaste classical building of 1927 has just reopened after a year's closure, doubled in public space with three new exhibition galleries and a performance art space. The secret of this £3 million facelift? A deal between the city council and the developers of the adjacent Princes Quay shopping complex, who have provided the architect and most of the funds.

Best briefs

IF THE British feature-film industry thrived in the way our "shorts" do, nobody would be worried. Out of eight prizewinning short films at the Melbourne Film Festival, five were British. Vera Neubauer's *Don't Be Afraid* was picked as the best short fiction film; Chris Newby's *Relax* won as best experimental film. The animation trophy went to David Anderson's *Door*. Britain also took the documentary prize, shared between *The Body Beautiful* and *Hidden Faces*. The only major prize not in British hands was the Grand Prix. That went to America's Su Friedrich for *Sink or Swim*.

Last chance...

THE group Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, among the last remaining relics of the synth-pop revolution, continue their unlikely revival. In March they enjoyed one of their biggest hits with "Sailing on the Seven Seas" and their first album for a while, *Sugar Tax*, is in the best-sellers. The current show is an energetic trawl through a repertoire of chart successes spanning ten years. The tour ends this week with dates at Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851) tonight; Brighton Dome (0273 674357) tomorrow; Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 262957) on Friday; and Liverpool Empire (051-709 1555) on Saturday.

ARTS REVIEWS
Opera and Music
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The domestic film industry: alive and well, but living in Hollywood?

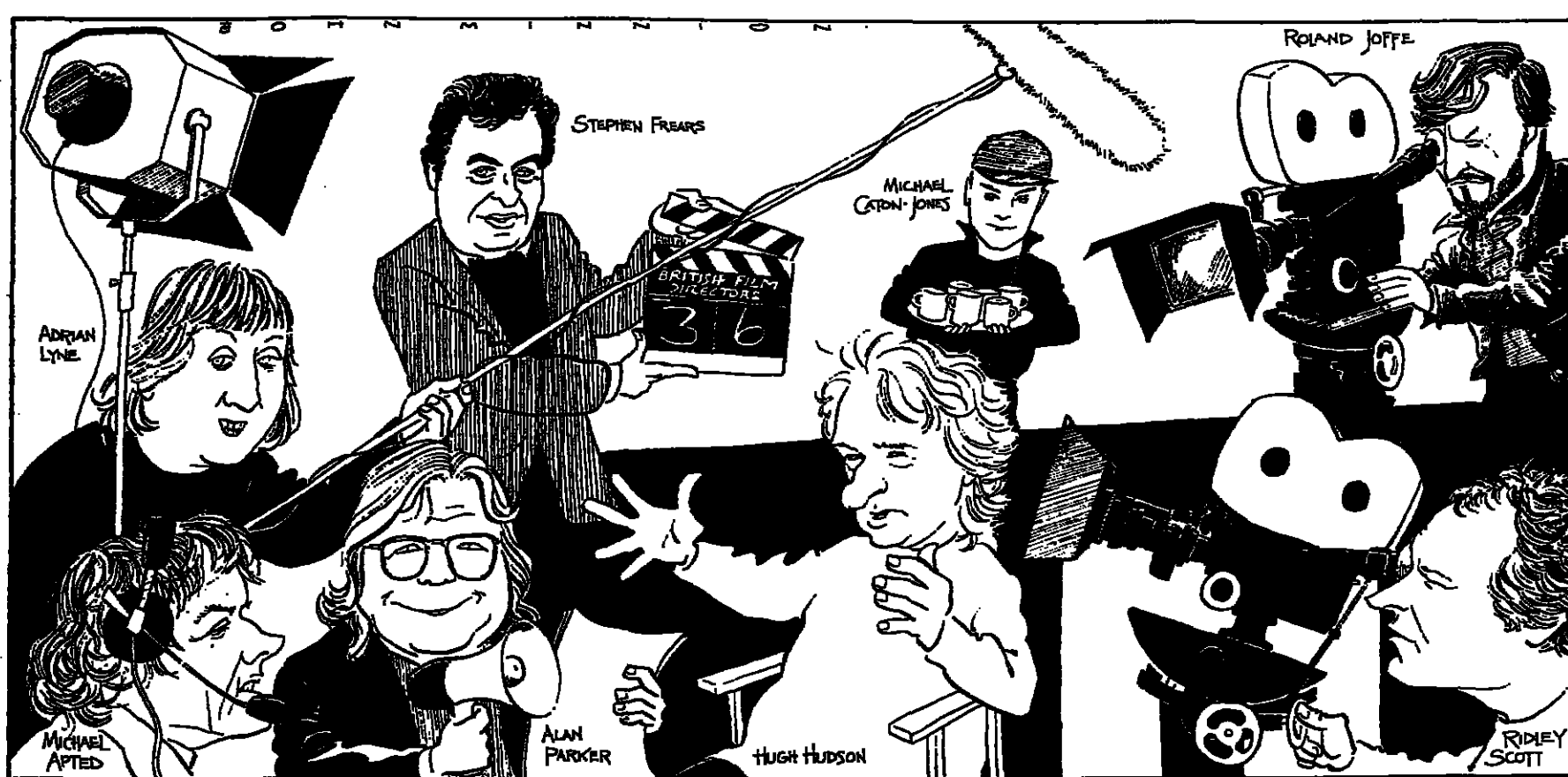
Geoff Brown looks at eight directors for whom pond-hopping is a way of life

Searching for a house? Michael Caton-Jones has one for sale. The young director of *Scandal* and *Memphis Belle* is moving out to Los Angeles, eager to reap Hollywood's rewards. America is delighted to have him: after his work on *Doc Hollywood*, starring Michael J. Fox (and due for British release in October), Caton-Jones has become Warner Brothers' white-haired boy.

Everywhere you look in the British film industry, estate agents' signs are sprouting. Strangled by government indifference, recession and market forces, British studios and producers plainly lack the funds, opportunities and confidence to keep our directors gainfully employed. But British expertise — of which there is an astonishing amount — is not lying idle. More than ever before, directors are toiling away on projects whose financial and spiritual bases lie far from home. Goodbye Tooting; hello Malibu.

Alfred Hitchcock spearheaded the invasion's first wave at the end of the Thirties, leading a colony of British actors and writers so set in their ways that they established their own cricket team. But it was not really until the Sixties, with the rise of international relations and a new rush of British talent, that the emigres began to queue up. Some of these expatriates are old hands by now. Advertising-trained talents such as Alan Parker, Adrian Lyne and Ridley Scott have been working successfully in America for a decade. Others, like John Schlesinger and Peter Yates, go back to the Sixties' glory days, to *Bullitt* and *Midnight Cowboy*, though they now hop continents from project to project.

But new blood is moving in, green card in hand. Some are barely out of film school, others are straight from television. With his better-skelter handling of Steve Martin's *L.A. Story*, Mick Jackson jumped from small-screen drama to Hollywood features, leap-frogging over poor British cinema. His next film, *The Bodyguard*, pits



him against the man of the moment, Kevin Costner. Mark Herman, a National Film and Television School graduate with an Oscar-winning student film behind him but no feature experience, is now shooting *Blame It On the Bellboy* with Dudley Moore. That is bankrolled by Disney.

Herman resists the notion of a permanent Hollywood career. "The place does not appeal to me, nor the subjects," he told *Variety*, the showbusiness paper. Other new British talents, testing the American waters, voice fears about getting "gobbled up by the machine"; they can point to many directors — Bill Forsyth for one — whose distinctive gifts have been bruised and shrivelled by studio politics or by their stars' mega-watt egos.

Yet the machine is inescapable, just like American culture in general. After all, most British directors, past and present, picked up their enthusiasm for popular film-making from rip-roaring, escapist Hollywood. Whoever came to love the movies from the Rank Organisation's dainty offerings? We might justly bemoan the loss of talent to our own bedraggled industry, but it is some consolation to know these orphaned directors at least have a home to go to. One day, the eight listed here might even make British films again.

MICHAEL APTEED GORILLAS, John Belushi in love, cost miners' daughters: Apted's career in the Hollywood jungle has been full of surprises. His first British feature, after varied television work, was *The Triple Echo* in 1972; four films later, he was helping Sissy Spacek win her Best Actress Oscar as Loretta Lynn in *Coal Miner's Daughter*. Consistently good with performers, from Gene Hackman in *Class Action* to the wildlife of *Gorillas in the Mist*. At the moment shooting *Thunderheart* for Robert De Niro's Tribeca company.

MICHAEL CATON-JONES THIS talented Scot once announced his desire to be "Preston Sturges in a kiln". He might still match the master's swirling comedies, though he will probably be wearing Bermuda shorts. Student films won him the chance to direct *Scandal*, about the Profumo affair, and David Putnam's bomber-pilot saga *Memphis Belle*. His latest, *Doc Hollywood*, might almost be a parable. Should doctor Michael J. Fox become a cosmetic surgeon in Beverly Hills or do good deeds in the sticks? Fox chooses the sticks; the director, for the moment, has plumped for Beverly Hills and is Hollywood's current hot property.

STEPHEN FREARS MADE IT, ma! Top of the world! At the age of 50, after years of energetic television work, Frears has finally cracked Hollywood. *Dangerous Liaisons* was the first step; the con artist thriller *The Grifters*, dazzling to behold though dramatically stunted, completed the process. Now he is embarking on *Hero and a Half*, with Dustin Hoffman. Frears' trademark verve may remain, but can Hollywood supply the meeting of minds that made his collaborations with writers Alan Bennett and Peter Prince so memorable?

HUGH HUDSON ETON; the army; 1,500 commercials, many awarded glittering prizes. Then, aged 45, he directed *Chariots of Fire*, which charmed the world and swept up four Oscars. The garden looked rosy. Then the blooms withered. On his Tarzan film, *Greystoke*, he was swamped by broth-spilling cooks; on *Revolution* he had the wrong subject, script and cast. Wounds licked, he ventured forth again in 1989 with *Lost Angels*, a silly delinquent drama. Hudson retains a sharp visual eye — in the 1987 election campaign he even beautified Neil Kinnock — but his feature career remains in jeopardy.

ROLAND JOFFE POWERFUL television dramas such as *United Kingdom* led Joffe to David Putnam and *The Killing Fields*. The Mission cemented his reputation for epics with moral fervour. *Shadow Makers*, the story of the scientists developing America's atomic bomb, found less success, though it was engrossing. Joffe's pet project is *City of Joy*, based on Dominique Lapierre's novel of the Calcutta shams. He is also diversifying into family fun, co-producing an animated musical based on the books of Dr Seuss.

ADRIAN LYNE IN 1974, Lyne used his advertising earnings to finance a short dark comedy, *Mr Smith*. If he expected a British film career, it never happened. America financed his first feature, *Foxes*. It was only lifted off the shelf once John Hinckley, Reagan's would-be assassin, declared his love for Jodie Foster. Lyne's luck changed with the crowd-pleasing *Flashdance*. Then *9½ Weeks* and *Fatal Attraction* established his credentials as the master packager of psychic sex. For three years, silence; now a post-Vietnam thriller, *Jacob's Ladder*, due here in September. Lyne's prospects seem viable, but dubious.

ALAN PARKER PARKER says, "It's a big world, and I'll go wherever I can do my best work." Since *Fame* in 1980, this has generally meant America, though the shoulder chips acquired during his North London boyhood remain. An advertising graduate, he began writing scripts soaked in working-class life, but it took *Bugsy Malone* to establish his name. *Midnight Express* first demonstrated the dangers of Parker's hot-headed style; the potentially fine *Come See the Paradise* was bloated. At least he leaves nobody indifferent.

RIDLEY SCOTT IN COMMERCIALS, Scott has sung the praises of everything from perfume to the government's anti-heroin campaign. In American features such as *Blade Runner*, his high-gloss style emphasises sets and special effects, not humans. This year's people-driven *Thelma & Louise* could mark a new development, though his next project — *Christopher Columbus* — may see him hamstringing. There is also Scott's younger brother Tony, the man who first proved that war looked just like a video game. Scott junior followed *Top Gun* with the equally flashy and empty *Days of Thunder*.

THEATRE

Museum man moves in with a bluesy trio

In a difficult creative climate, where only Neil Simon and British musicals prosper, George C. Wolfe has emerged as a bracing force in New York theatre. Having come to attention in the mid-Eighties with his satirical pastiche of black Americana, *The Colored Museum*, Wolfe last year was asked to be one of three resident directors at Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival.

During his residency, he staged Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and his own adaptation, *Spunk*. The latter work brings him back to the London International Festival of Theatre, which gave *Colored Museum* its British premiere four years ago. At the same theatre, the Royal Court, *Spunk* opens on Thursday.

Spunk consists of three works, all drawn from the short stories of the Florida-born Harlem Renaissance writer, Zora Neale Hurston, who died in 1960 but whose writing, with its gutsy language and great good humour, has enjoyed a recent revival of interest in America. Earlier this year, the Lincoln Center Theatre mounted *Mule Bone*, the hitherto unproduced play she wrote with Langston Hughes. "The language is dazzling; the emotions are rich and deep and complicated," Wolfe says of Hurston's work.

Is there room in theatre for an equivalent to the film-making of Spike Lee? George C. Wolfe, black US author of *The Colored Museum* and now adapter of *Spunk*, talks to Matt Wolf

"The Three Lives bookstore in Greenwich Village would have her stories, and they'd say, 'A new Zora came in.' Because of the prominence of [black American novelists] Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, Zora was regaining attention too."

Wolfe first thought of dramatising these stories as three mini-operas, and launched the evening as a cabaret in Los Angeles in 1989, later expanding it into a full evening at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick, New Jersey. What he ended up with was a trio of adaptations, two set in the rural south and one in Harlem, linked by a

bluesy musical framework.

"Zora's writing is unquestionably informed by the blues," explains Wolfe. "What I had to do was return back to the blues form and find a theatrical equivalent." The language itself, though, remains mostly Hurston's. Says Wolfe: "It's flawless."

Wolfe feels that the current fascination with Hurston goes beyond the success of contemporary books and films such as *The Color Purple*, which showed that a large audience could be found for works about poor southern American blacks. "This is not *The Color Purple* revisited," he jokes. "There's something else in the air. The image dominating all American culture is that people are saying, 'Yes, European energy is very significant, but other energies are just as significant, and some even more so.'"

"Zora is an American original the way Mark Twain is an American original. My interest in her is part of a general redefinition of what constitutes American culture. It's redefining the importance of the European influence which has been extraordinarily distorted in the past."

Wolfe himself has won acclaim as a true original within the American theatre, embracing a style that folds influences as disparate as jazz, puppetry and Japanese Noh drama into a diverse aesthetic. His tone, too, often catches viewers by surprise. *The Colored Museum* shocked some with an irreverence towards black life unusual in mainstream black American theatre.

Has black theatre not had to struggle sufficiently to get where it is? A satirical vignette such as "the last Mama-on-the-couch play", a spoof on a particular kind of theatrical black earnestness, seemed to get back the cause. Wolfe rejects this, responding that in the theatre, as in life, there are no sacred cows.

"I think that to be a functioning person of colour in American society is to be a functional schizophrenic. In this zone, those rules apply; in that zone, those rules apply. *The Colored Museum* was



George C. Wolfe: acclaimed as a theatrical original

about coloured contradictions: the flip-flop between an intrinsic rhythm and truth informed by a certain tribalism, coming into contact with an energy source that was part of the mainstream — that is, white. The collision between these two is where the brilliance of black culture lies.

'Teetering on the edge is what it means to be a black American'

Teetering on the edge is what it means to be a black American.

Wolfe comes from Frankfort, Kentucky, where his father was a corrections officer for the state government and his mother worked as a school principal. He recalls "tolerant school, because at the end of the year, I would stage enormous plays and pageants". At Pomona College in California, which he left in 1976, he read theatre, eventually choosing directing over acting because of what he

RADIO

Absences, excuses and plain mealy-mouthings

In this column I was to have dilated on the wit and wisdom of the Alan Bennett soundbite. David Hockney — his bottle-blond coiffure, his Verdi collection, his way with an interviewer from Kaleidoscope (Radio 4, Saturday) — but my doughty four-speaker boombox has suddenly taken to recording the inaudible strands of the broadcast spectrum... and the rest is silence. Given the painter's chronic deafness, this artefact is an instant classic, to be widely pirated: the blank Hockney tape.

Meanwhile, off-air, Sunday witnessed the last of Table Talk (Radio 3). In her customary debonair fashion, Leslie Forbes took a picnic in Richmond Park with Maggie Black, whose familiarity with medieval cookery extends to the point of knowing the limits of her knowledge. She knows that barley bread was the staple of the middle classes, that verjuice was made from unripe grapes, and that the difference between running and standing pottage was that a spoon would support itself in the latter.

But while we still wait for the discovery of a definitive lunch-capsule of medieval *sous-vide*, our conception of such matters is at the mercy of careless scribes who bequeathed to posterity a multiple choice of recipes for the same dish. "Are you sure you don't get sick of medieval food?" inquired Forbes, tactful to the last.

Throughout its lengthy run, the series has taken pains to unearth culinary arcana, sometimes scarcely credible, at times candidly disgusting, and after 15 minutes has left the subject dangling like a frozen waiter in a Bateman cartoon. Most food journalism purports to be utile, as though it were a branch of the DIY industry; *Table Talk* has triumphantly reversed the trend, and in the process has collared awards from Glenditch and the Wine Guild — not, one notes, from the Parnip Marketing Board.

This suggests perhaps that its natural audience is the one that spends Sunday lunchtime searching for clean glasses rather than hair-maries.

Tuning in to Radio 4 yesterday morning for my regular injection of book-pushing on *Start The Week*, I was intrigued to find a new series called, weakly, *The Summer Strand*. Charles Kennedy, sounding nothing whatever like Melvyn Bragg, will spend the next five Monday mornings attempting to provoke a batch of bought-in pundits to conversation. His first effort had John Drummond, controller of Radio 3, waxing

purple on the glory of the Proms — their "risk" and "challenge" — and rebutting the outrageous claim that he is planning to privatise them. And, er, Nigel Kennedy? "I've known Nigel since he was 12 years old," declared Drummond, firm as a father-in-law at a wedding reception that is beginning to fray around the edges, "and he's a good lad." That is that, then.

MARTIN CROPPER

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START FOR A NEW ORDER

Barring last-minute obstacles, Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev will tomorrow announce agreement on reducing their strategic arsenals by a third. The remaining disagreement, over the definition of new missile systems, is important but less awkward technically than the hurdles surmounted in only four hectic days of negotiating in Washington by their secretaries of state.

Conclusion of the negotiating marathon on a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start) will overshadow the G7 summit, and richly deserves to do so. It is a testament to what diplomats can achieve where there is a will. A Start treaty will be a serious contribution to a new, more stable, international order, the theme of the summit. It is historic because it not only reduces for the first time the number of inter-continental ballistic missiles — of which both sides will retain more than enough to annihilate each other — but also reduces the risk of their being used.

From Mr Gorbachev, nothing could be a more propitious curtain-raiser for his talks with the summit seven. The Start negotiations began in 1982, when Ronald Reagan was denouncing the Soviet Union as "the evil empire". Formal signature of the treaty, probably in Moscow at the delayed Soviet-American summit, will conclude the main unfinished business of the cold war.

Relations between the super-powers need no longer be dominated by arms control. That is partly because Start, unlike its ill-fated predecessor, the unratified Salt treaty, lays a legal foundation on which future strategic arms reductions can be built. The virtue of this vast document lies in the rigour of its arms measurement procedures and its detailed safeguards against cheating. For that same reason, Start has been deadlocked for months over crucial points: access to the coded messages transmitted by missiles during tests, the number of re-entry vehicles allowed on each missile, ways of measuring agreed ceilings on each missile's destructive power and determining what constitutes a new missile.

The decision to invite Mr Gorbachev to meet the G7 seems to have been a spur to both sides. Mr Bush made the running, with two personal appeals over the past month to

Mr Gorbachev. Last week, the latter responded by sending his foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, to Washington, apparently with orders to make whatever concessions were needed for a deal.

Final details are still being worked out in Geneva, site of the Start negotiations, but Mr Gorbachev will expect the progress made in Washington to influence the tone of tomorrow's discussions of the Soviet Union's economic problems. He will be reminded that the West is still critical of Soviet arms spending, but his Start performance has reinforced his credibility as a reliable partner in the rebuilding of international confidence after the cold war.

This brings him within range of John Major's own summit theme, the building of a new world order through the United Nations following the Gulf war. The trouble with political commitments to "strengthening the UN" is that shorn of specifics, they mean little. Because the G7 does not include all five permanent members of the Security Council, while the Council does not include two economic superpowers, Germany and Japan, vagueness is likely to be the order of Mr Major's day.

The most important immediate business, finding a candidate of world standing to succeed the outgoing UN Secretary-General, has to be the work of the Council's five permanent members, because each has a veto on the final choice. That is also true of controls on arms sales, since the five are responsible for 80 per cent of exports. British plans to improve the UN's appalling co-ordination of disaster relief are worthy but must defeat a near-unanimous UN bureaucracy first. A useless UN co-ordinating office already exists.

Mr Major seems to mean merely that the UN should move up the political agenda. If he is serious — and means anything more than greater happiness to all his guests — it is time Britain insisted on a new UN chief executive capable of pre-emptive diplomacy and ready to clean out the UN's corrupt administration. This a gutsy task for Mr Major to set his diplomats forthwith. He has yet to spell out what he means by his new "international order", once he has overcome the exhilaration of hosting his first summit.

A MINISTERIAL RAFFLE

One of the dafter proposals to emerge from a Conservative party eager to limit the poll tax damage earlier this year was for central government to take over all education spending from local authorities. Michael Heseltine rightly rejected it. But the transfer is now taking place by stealth as further education, sixth-form centres, city technology colleges and opted-out schools are brought under Whitehall administration.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, would clearly like to remove all schooling from local councils. He thinks he is thus vesting education in institutional managers. That is what government once said of the prison and hospital services. He who pays the piper calls the tune. If Whitehall is paying, Whitehall is calling.

Yesterday a junior education minister, Tim Eggar, proved the point. He came up with another ruse for increasing control by the centre, albeit by laundering the money through local councils. He announced that he would give £12 million, over three years, to inner city schools that promised to raise standards of teaching in the three Rs, and to involve parents more. Local authorities would have to contribute £8 million.

This is not new money from the Treasury, as it comes out of the government's existing grant for schools. It is a political gimmick. But the arbitrariness of the scheme is worrying. On what grounds will the minister decide which schools deserve the cash? Almost all inner-city schools can make a case for needing more money. However good Mr Eggar's intentions, he will end up giving the extra cash to those schools that most closely meet his idea of what a good school should be. These will be the ones that can best judge how to make a proposal that will appeal to Mr Eggar, which means Mr Eggar's civil servants.

QUALITY OF WHAT, EXACTLY?

Along with the rule of law and equality of opportunity, the "quality of life" is one of those slogans which have been taken up by those who believe that the state's job is not just to sustain the living standards of individuals but to shape the way they live. The difficulty of this task is no discouragement to them. Each life may be qualitatively different; there may be no objective standard against which a life's "quality" may be judged. Yet experts still postulate norms for the entire human race, to compare national averages and galvanise governments.

The new "British Trust" announced yesterday, is tackling these imponderables by creating a brains trust. Only in Britain, where life imitates art and the successful are expected to excel in benevolence too, does the notion of "the great and the good" exist. The British Trust draws heavily on their patronage, from Eric Hammond and Sir James Anderson to Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Sir John Gielgud, with Willie Carson and Andre Previn thrown in for good measure. Their magisterial project is "the enhancement of the quality of life", through "governmental, economic, social and attitudinal changes".

While to some this might require access to the levers of power, or at least the levers of leverage, they include no politicians, their grubby careers cannot compare, with the sublime quality of the lives of the great architects, businessmen, sportsmen, actors, musicians

and statisticians here enlisted. The quality of life most of concern to such gilded ones tends to have a tinge of the *haute bourgeoisie* litter in towns, developers in the countryside, pollution in the air, sewage in the sea. But this trust is eager to tackle more partisan causes, education, transport, health and the economy. The trust sets out to measure satisfaction with all these services, at home and abroad.

The implication that all this can be removed from political controversy should not take any brains trust worth its grey matter long to demolish. How, for example, to adjudicate between the British Roads Federation, which stated yesterday that bypasses "enhance the quality of life", and the green lobby, which considers all roads to be encroachments on nature and incentives for motorists to burn fossil fuel?

The first task of a brains trust truly devoted to the quality of life is surely metaphysical, to declare that everybody's life quality is personal and not to be legislated on by life-enhancers, do-gooders and assorted undemocratic utopians. All else in the relations between citizens is politics. In a democracy, those who eschew politics or imply a loftier purpose than its practitioners do a disservice to the public weal. The brains trust should dissolve itself and stand for Parliament. Grubby they may be, but politicians can at least be turfed out of office.

Doubtful future for Royal Navy

From the Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships
Sir, Other than for Trident there has not been an order for a new submarine since January 1986. The last frigate shipbuilding contract was placed in December 1989 and the last for a major support ship in December 1987.

Funds for feasibility studies for replacement amphibious ships were allocated in September 1987, since when there have been repeated statements of support for retaining the capability, but apparently there is no prospect of a shipyard order before the next general election.

A tender for seven new mine-hunters has recently been allowed to lapse, and there can be no guarantee that last month's "invitation to tender" for three new frigates (report, June 28) will lead to orders being placed before next year, and then not necessarily for the full number.

If the government is intent on cutting off the long-term future of the Navy it would be more honest to say so, rather than continuing to pretend to commitments not matched by the required order rate for new ships. Or is it that the commitment is being undermined by the Treasury?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE, Editor,
Jane's Fighting Ships,
Frosty House,
Kingsley, Hampshire,
July 10.

Honouring Wellington

From Mr Ronald Cust
Sir, Since 1952, the public have been able to see at Apsley House the first Duke of Wellington's magnificent collection of paintings, porcelain, plate, etc.

Recently, a new gallery — "The Road to Waterloo" — has been opened at the National Army Museum featuring weapons, uniforms, equipment etc., from the 1793-1815 period. The centre-piece is Siborne's 400 sq ft model of the Battle of Waterloo with its 70,000 model soldiers.

May I suggest that the time has come for the nation to better honour one of its finest generals by developing the Apsley House site to enable transfer there of the Waterloo gallery and, more particularly, through the provision of audio-visual facilities, allow continuous presentations on Wellington's life and campaigns.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD CUST,
17 The Deeringes,
Harpenden, Hertfordshire,
July 14.

Accident compensation

From Mr David Talboys
Sir, Your editorial on the case of the three injured Grenadier guardsmen ("Now, minister", July 15) not only highlights the depressing fact that our politicians and civil servants plod through, but also shows that there is an urgent need to introduce a "no fault" compensation scheme.

Of course the three guardsmen should be compensated for their injuries, as should any Channel tunnel worker hurt, and as should victims of hit-and-run car accidents or exploding oil rigs. Compensation of victims should be prompt and separate from the vigorous pursuit and punishment of the negligent.

Yours sincerely,
D. TALBOYS,
Ash Villa, Rosgill, Penrith, Cumbria,
July 15.

BCCI closure

From Mr G. C. Newman
Sir, Most banks, for ill-defined considerations of "security", make it a condition of employment that an employee may maintain a bank account only with his employer. Such a condition is not only a restriction of individual liberty but to a significant extent denies to the employee the secrecy which banks are obliged to afford to the affairs of customers generally.

It is, therefore, iniquitous that employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), July 11) should find themselves without not only a job but also their own money, which, perforce, they left with their employer. Only they had no choice in this matter and ought surely to receive preference when payments in compensation are considered.

Thereafter the banking industry generally should scrap a condition of employment which, clearly, cannot be justified.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. NEWMAN,
Whistler's Wake,
Sandalwood Avenue,
Chertsey, Surrey.

Healthy eating

From Mr D. W. Sarll
Sir, Many thousands of people might well dispute Dr Thomas Stuttaford's statement (article, July 10) that the chances are remote that "healthier" eating habits will significantly increase their enjoyment of life.

First, I would refer to people who have no natural teeth. This disability affects 37 per cent of adults in the United Kingdom aged between 55 and 64 years and 80 per cent over 75 years and is far more prevalent in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and in England north of the line between The Wash and the Bristol Channel.

Reducing and easing prison life

From the Director and the President-elect of the Howard League

Sir, Why is the government apparently so afraid of Sir Harry Woolf? The criminal justice bill is now in its final stages. During the extensive public and parliamentary debates on the bill, the government has consistently refused to include amendments which arise from Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry into the disturbances in the prisons last year. Nor has it adopted suggestions made by the Howard League and other organisations which would radically reduce the use of prison for specific categories of non-violent offenders and people on remand.

A white paper on prison reform is promised, possibly this month. This must have significant financial implications if it is to be effective, but may only need a redistribution of resources rather than an injection of new money. The white paper should aim to divert funds away from prisons where they are merely being squandered on an inefficient and inhumane system beyond redemption. There must, of course, be an improvement in prison conditions, but the aim should be to develop constructive penalties to be served in the community.

Setting a 'custody point' for crime

From the Director of Nacro

Sir, Your report (July 11) criticises by Judge David Griffiths and others of the statutory principles restricting custodial sentences to "serious" cases which are contained in the government's criminal justice bill.

It is argued that, in determining the level of seriousness which justifies custody, the Court of Appeal will "set the custody point" for property crime too low, thereby neutralising the bill's aim of increasing the use of community penalties. This argument ignores the fact that the Court of Appeal has already issued a lengthy series of judgments interpreting the similarly worded criteria which have governed the use of custody for young offenders since 1983.

These judgments have overturned many custodial sentences for young property offenders, ruling that their offences were insufficiently serious to justify custody under the statutory criteria. This process, together

with the development of intensive and credible community penalties for young people, have produced a sharp reduction in custodial sentences for those under 21.

It is unlikely that the Court of Appeal will reinvent the wheel when interpreting almost identical statutory provisions, and its earlier judgments will be regarded as broadly applicable when courts now consider imprisonment for adults.

The sentencing criteria in the criminal justice bill are a worthwhile attempt to reduce the unnecessary use of prison sentences. As such they deserve support and co-operation, not negative criticism, from all those involved in the criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN STERN,
Director,
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
July 11.

cars as "perks". But now the taxation of the benefit of a company car is at a level sufficient to remove any reason for the retention of this anomaly.

The total burden of these discriminatory and unique taxes must now exceed £2,000 million a year. They place British car-makers at a severe disadvantage when competing against those whose home markets do not suffer such grotesque distortion.

Commissioner Brittan should take a look at penalties as well as subsidies to secure fair competition in the EC car market after 1992.

Burden of car tax

From Mr Hugh Cownie

Sir, EC Commissioner Brittan's call for the abandonment of car industry subsidies (report, July 6) is consistent with the idea of competitors playing on the same pitch. But he should extend this logic by calling for the British government to remove the tax handicaps placed on the competitiveness of our own industry.

Car tax, an extension of purchase tax, though under a different name, was imposed when VAT was introduced and adds 10 per cent to the notional ex-factory price. VAT is applied to this tax adding further to the burden. Company purchases of cars do not qualify for VAT deductibility as other company purchases do.

Some bogus reasoning was used by HM Treasury to explain this as a penalty on companies providing

cars as "perks". But now the taxation of the benefit of a company car is at a level sufficient to remove any reason for the retention of this anomaly.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH COWNIE,
(Economic adviser,
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, 1966-86),
Kensal Lodge,
Beckenham Place Park,
Beckenham, Kent,
July 6.

School opting out

From Mr Martin Rogers

Sir, Local Schools Information was described in Craig Seton's account (July 4) of his daughter's school's opt-out experience as "lurging a no vote". In fact, we deliberately do not urge parents to vote "no". Our function is simply to provide information to help parents to reach an informed decision that is right for their school.

Mr Seton's experience that the cost of "campaigns", on either side, is not an issue would be widely shared. Ironically, local education authorities, in any event, most of the pro-opt-out campaign, as most governing bodies use school resources to put their case.

Sex before marriage

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichito

Sir, Because I suggested (June 29) that religions might condone the living together of young couples before their final commitment to marriage Rabbi Dr Shulman (July 6) accuses me of undermining the ideal of sexual abstinence till marriage.

The biblical verses Rabbi Shulman cites to prove his case do nothing of the sort. They only condemn prostitution, particularly fathers who submit their daughters to harlotry. While adultery and incest are rightly considered as grievous offences subject to severe punishment, nowhere does the Bible suggest any punishment for licit though non-marital sexual activity. More disturbing than this puritanical misrepresentation of the texts is the illusion, constantly promoted by orthodox leaders of all religions, that sexual permissiveness is the root of all modern evils. United family life and sexual fidelity, however important and praiseworthy, have never spared the world from the ravages of war, the hunger of starving humanity, or the chaos resulting from criminal acts against life and property.

Surely these are the major moral issues to which religious leaders should be addressing themselves. Faithfully,
SIDNEY BRICHITO,
Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues,
The Montagu Centre,
109 Whitfield Street, W1,
July 8.

Dr Stuttaford also overlooks little John Bull, who has no power to supervise his kitchen or restaurant table, his diet is thrust upon him. A change in children's diet away from sugar would benefit the great majority of children. At 15 years of age, according to the last government survey, 93 per cent had one or more decayed teeth with an average of 5.9 decayed permanent teeth per child.

Yours sincerely,
D. W. SARLL,
Salford & Trafford Health Authorities,
Department of Dental Public Health,
Peel House, Albert Street,
Eccles, Greater Manchester,
July 10.

Limited access to Dead Sea Scrolls

From Professor Alan D. Crown

Sir, As the person responsible to the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies for arranging for a complete photographic repertoire of the Dead Sea Scrolls to be lodged here, and as one of the signatories to the restrictive agreement with the Israel Antiquities Authority, I feel that I should offer your readers of Professor Golb's attack on the centre (July 10) some explanation of our actions.

When the Oxford centre undertook its scrolls' acquisition programme it was with the intention that this would be a centre of scholarship on the scrolls. It has been obvious to us from the beginning that, sooner or later, the restrictions applying to the scrolls will be lifted, and it was our intention to prepare by having all the working tools and scroll copies at hand for that day.

In our agreement with the Israel Antiquities Authority there is a clause which says that *bona fide* scholars can have access to unpublished materials if they are given permission by any editor who is currently working on any batch of unpublished material or by the editor-in-chief of the project. It is our belief that this permission will be given increasingly and, sooner rather than later, open access will be permitted.

Failure to acquire the photographs for this centre would in no way have enhanced access to the scrolls for scholars. The Israel Antiquities Authority conceded to our request for a set of photographs in exchange for our mediation of funding for the research and publication programme which had ground to a halt for lack of funding. The current arrangement is a classic case of everyone gaining.

In the meantime, several signs have emerged that our faith in the future opening out of scrolls scholarship is justified. When our Qumran (scrolls) room was opened on July 1 Professor Emanuel Tov, the editor-in-chief, and Professor Geza Vermes of Oxford both gave public lectures to a large gathering of scholars on unpublished materials on which they were working.

Moreover, after October next, when the centre's collection will be the location of our Qumran forum, it is anticipated that there will be regular discussions on unpublished materials hosted by Professor Vermes.

I must stress that there is no policy of excluding "heterodox" scholars from the centre.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. CROWN
(Administrator, Qumran project),
Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies,
Yarnton Manor,
Yarnton, Oxford,
July 10.

From Professor Geza Vermes, FBA
Sir, The fact that I publicly criticised the intolerable delays in publishing the Dead Sea Scrolls, for which the previous three editors-in-chief were responsible, did not prevent the present regime from inviting me to take charge of the unpublished material relating to the Manual of Discipline, one of the most important sectarian documents.

As director appointed by the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies of a new forum for Qumran research, I intend to hold open seminars on these texts from next October. The forum will bring to Oxford other scholars editing Scrolls to share their knowledge with all interested parties. The forum is meant to become a focus of academic co-operation and a source of advance information on Qumran matters to all and sundry.

Meanwhile, if Professor Golb wishes to consult the manuscripts entrusted to me for publication, he is welcome to do so, as would no doubt be the case if he approached other editors in a spirit of scholarly fellowship.

Needless to say, I will continue to advocate and strive to bring about a full liberalisation of access to all the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Yours sincerely,
GEZA VERMES,
University of Oxford,
The Oriental Institute,
Pusey Lane,
Oxford,
July 10.

Alcohol and car racing

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Elham (Conservative)

Sir, The BBC gives major coverage to the British Grand Prix. Advertisers pay fortunes for their names to be broadcast. The advertising codes forbid paid advertisements that associate alcohol with driving on commercial television.

The TV pictures (report and photographs, July 15) show prominently the name of one lagger firm behind the winner and the name of another on the winner's car.

Unless there is effective voluntary agreement to end this money-for-exposure, the BBC board or Parliament or the Department of Transport should forbid it.

I thought, wrongly, that it would not happen this year.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
House of Commons,
July 15.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Waffle creamed with style



Epitome of the 20th century style group: the three members of Deee-Lite

Deee-Lite Brixton Academy

DEEE-LITE are difficult to dislike, though some people are beginning to make the effort. Only recently, electro-pop pioneer John Robie was quoted with the suggestion that Deee-Lite's singer, Lady Miss Kier, "should be giving out make-up in Bloomingdale's".

Kier may consider that a compliment, since the group epitomises a late 20th century victory of style over content. On Friday night this was illustrated when Kier produced a small cardboard cutout of Deee-Lite's third member, DJ Towa, and explained his absence with a monologue concerning emanations from a computer. These had apparently caused rainbows in his room, though why this should stop him from travelling from New York to London was not clarified further. Luckily, the act was not entirely made up of costume changes and cosmic waffle.

On record, Deee-Lite's music is, as they describe it, sampledisco. In other words, the sound is largely computer and sample orientated while the image is a kitsch mélange of hippie and disco

styling. For the stage they had sensibly assembled a six-piece band, including DJ Dmitry on keyboards, a guitarist from Funkadelic and Bootsy Collins, bassist from Funkadelic, Parliament, Material, James Brown and Bootsy's Rubber Band.

Two backing singers assisted Kier in her voguing routines, inspired by the sculptural dancing that originated in New York's transvestite clubs. Beginning the show encased in a violet plastic outfit complete with elbow length gloves, Kier gave a fair impression of a disco diva without ever descending into outright parody. Although the music often sounded functional by comparison with the richness of their album, songs such as "What is Love?", with its eerie instrumental hooks, were effective.

For "Who Was That?" and the hit single "Groove in the Heart", Kier changed into a spangled costume with iridescent cape. "Groove in the Heart" stood out, simply because it had two vocal melodies, albeit brief ones, to supplement the dance rhythms, camp attitude and post-modern imagery. After this, the momentum seemed to fade away. As their name has always implied, Deee-Lite were briefly wonderful: 30 minutes was just enough.

DAVID TOOP

Riccardo Primo Covent Garden

IF A Handel opera on such a glamorous subject as the Lionheart is so little known, one suspects there must be reasons. Well, so there are, and most of them come in the first two acts. But as this single English Bach Festival performance revealed, the third act is full of good things. Richard and his Syrian ally Oronte, the two castrato roles here taken by counter-tenors) both get highly excited by the prospect of having a go at the slippery Isaac, self-styled emperor of Cyprus.

Richard's betrothed, in Isaac's power, has a string of fine numbers: a lament with prominent recorder tone, a searching accompanied recitative, and another fine and poignant aria. Isaac, in the middle of this, sings his own stomping piece. And then comes the battle, here providing the delicious opportunity for three prancing, twirling dancers to stand in for the entire Angevin army; never before has 18th century style choreography (by Stephen Preston) been such fun.

By the standards of *opera seria*, the plot follows history pretty closely, even if Berengaria of Navarre is renamed Costanza, Isaac's daughter (renamed in parallel: Pulcheria is made an adult in order to complicate the amorous intrigue and the power

politics, and Oronte seems to be an invention, also introduced in order to complicate. Handel's librettist here was Paolo Rolli, a contentious libretto who spent most of his professional life in London, and who was clearly capable of putting together an effective if sometimes bathetic script, with patriotic elements to honour the newly crowned George II.

This performance benefited from the sensitive but also active conducting of Marc Minkowski, and from a lot of excellent singing. Paul Esswood, in the title role, produced breath-taking roulades in the love duet at the end of Act II, and was splendid again in finding the quite different, ringing tones needed for the accompanied recitative and aria of Richard's battle speech. Marilyn Hill Smith was properly bright and pure as Costanza; the richer tone and more flamboyant decorative prowess of Della Jones as Pulcheria made the right contrast.

Donald Maxwell as Isaac excellently combined storming power with accuracy and absolutely clear diction. Yacov Zamir, who excited concern by his statement in the programme that he "continues the tradition of the virtuoso male sopranos and contraltos of the 17th and 18th centuries", in fact proved to have a strong broken range in what was an erratic if astonishing performance. Tom Hawkes's production wheeled the characters in and out on time.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

A Breeze from the Gulf Man in the Moon, Chelsea

MART Crowley is best known for *The Boys in the Band*, that glimpse of intra-mural gay tension just before the age of liberation. The present play, now given its British premiere, fills in the author's home background: an adolescence spent in a small Mississippi town with a father given to the occasional drink too many and a mother hooked on painkillers.

The writing avoids the unremitting doom and gloom promised by such a plot. The play's great strength is its portrayal of the little family as potentially perfectly happy. You can see why Lorraine and Teddy, the parents, loved each other, and why Michael, their son, loves them in turn. The onset of alcoholism and drug addiction respectively is hinted at in short scenes unified by the feeling of a real family, with its in-jokes and catch-phrases, small grudges and affection.

The action covers ten years, seen through the eyes of the son between the ages of 15 and 25. Inevitably, there are reminders of great American theatrical models: O'Neill and Tennessee Williams spring to mind, especially in the father/son showdown. The first of these, when Michael reveals his hatred for his parents, begins wordily, but the play

gathers momentum in its characterisation of Teddy. A wonderfully detached portrait emerges of a complex, basically decent man: self-made, with the redneck virtues of hearty masculinity and pride in career, and the redneck vices of unthinking racism - casual rather than deliberate - and obsession with his Catholic faith. The character refuses to be categorised, and his very inconsistencies ring uncomfortably true.

Lorraine, the narrator, is less coherent. The beautiful, over-indulgent mother is alternately worshipped and loathed, as if the author himself is still too close to the subject. Southern gentility, pain and fantasy recall both *Amadeus* in *Lost Menagerie* and *Mary Tyrone* in *Long Day's Journey* - though the final harrowing scene between mother and son is like a downbeat version of Coward's *Verity*, roles reversed.

The play is long and uneven, with a final melodramatic dyke that seems tacked on to the preceding dying fall. But it shows compassion, pain and affection in charting what happens along the way to make an ordinary family tragic - and still ordinary. Paul Barber's direction elicits beautiful performances from Frances Brodwin and Richard Harbridge as the parents and Joe Hutton as Michael - despite an American accent that ranges from East Anglia to the Antipodes.

MARTIN HOYLE

Lighthouse All Stars Birmingham Jazz Festival

EFFETE, soulless and bourgeois: West Coast jazz has had a devastating negative press. People who have never even heard a note of it still give a sniff of disdain. The fact that the West Coast school produced some of the most gifted musicians of the post-war era - Gerry Mulligan, Jimmy Giuffrè and Art Pepper, to name a few - has made little difference.

Of course, the style had its failures, especially in the more pretentious experiments with classical devices. Yet at its core could often be found an unremitting determination to play the music as it was. The Lighthouse All Stars epitomise that spirit. Led by Shorty Rogers and Bud Shank, the octet celebrates the night club in Hermosa Beach which, from 1949 onwards, became Los Angeles's answer to Birdland.

In those days the musicians were liable to engage in 12-hour jam sessions before an audience of young swingers. Now, well into middle age,

the players find themselves in more conventional surroundings: on the international touring circuit.

Beneath the cryptic titles and the decorative arrangements lies a mini-band with its roots in the swing era. A hard-driving blues tune such as "Martians Go Home" has all the momentum of a Basic standard. Not much sign of bloodlessness here. That should not come as a surprise when you recall that Rogers and Shank were originally displaced members of the big band generation.

Of the soloists, Bill Perkins made a strong impression with his peppy baritone saxophone. Tenor player Bob Cooper favoured untoured legato phrases which contrasted with Shank's fleet and runs. Rogers himself was out of sorts on the flugelhorn, with intonation occasionally off-target. The same was true of bebop trumpeter Candoli.

Otherwise, the roofter setting of "America The Beautiful" was the only sign of preciousness. The rest maintained that ideal balance between two regions and two traditions: Kansas City and California.

CLIVE DAVIS

Rolf Hind Arts, Leicester Square

PLATFORM 1, the pianist Joanna MacGregor's splendidly defiant response to the Almeida Festival's demise, inevitably could not cover as much ground as its always carefully planned and vast predecessor. But in the course of its dozen concerts given by friends responding to MacGregor's call at short notice, it had a good try. About 30 composers were represented; some, like John Tavener and George Crumb, handsomely.

Rolf Hind's piano recital last Friday ranged as wide as anything. For intellectual weight nothing could outdo Anthony Powers's Second Piano Sonata (1986), an ingenious two-part structure. Its first section consists of half a dozen little pieces separated by contrasting music that uses the resonance of silence to depress keys to provide a harmonic framework for, it turned out, the entire work: the second section boldly develops, contrasts and unites that material.

For those who preferred to have their nerve endings exposed rather than their grey matter exercised, Michael Finnissy's innocuously entitled *Three English Country Tunes* provided every extreme: of register, dynamic, tempo and, ultimately, emotion. Poul Ruders's 13 Postludes (1989) roared a dark but again immensely varied, if pianistically less extravagant, path. Meanwhile, Bent Sorensen's Poes-Infused *Musique of the Red Death*, angular and obtuse, seemed not half as sinister, despite its jangling, creeping ostinatos.

To all these works Hind responded with typical flair. In performance he often looks like the still centre of some furious tempest, showing an admirable lack of theatricality in all but the sounds he makes. That is the more remarkable because of the intellectual and physical energy and the courage his chosen repertoire demands. Ligeti's Eight Studies once more put these qualities to the test. Yet in the brilliant miniatures how strong the composer's personality seemed, compared with everything that had gone before.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Arts features, page 13

18 REVIEWS

NEW RELEASES

ANDRIS RUGLE (15): Tarkovsky's stunning fresco of an icon painter's life in medieval Russia, completed in 1986. Rerelease (071-437 9422).

HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER (15): Dismalising, fly-on-the-wall study of human depravity in Chicago. Director, John McLaughlin. Cannon: Parkway Street (071-430 0521) (071-430 0521) Metro (071-437 0757).

HUGHSON HAWK (15): Casaburgh Bruce Wills gets drawn into a plot to conquer the world. Profound, General action-comedy with a low IQ. Director, Michael Lehmann. Cannon: Baker Street (071-435 9772) Chelsea (071-435 5088) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914555) Leicester Square (071-430 1111) Swiss Cottage (071-432 5535) Wharfedale (071-432 3333).

KILL ME AGAIN (15): Bad girl Joanna Whalley-Kilmer lures a sexy private eye into a web of deceit. Hollywood film noir homage by John Dahl. Cannon: Parkway Street (071-430 2636) Haymarket (071-432 1527) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0146).

NOCE BLANCHE (15): Philosophy teacher falls for delinquent pupil. Dark, witty drama, with pop star Vanessa Paradis. Director, Jean-Claude Brisseau. Cannon: Piccadilly (071-437 5551) Chelsea (071-432 5551).

THE LAMB (15): Diefelt road movie with Glenn Davis and Susan Sarandon fleeing through the American South-West. Bizarre adventure from director Ridley Scott. Cannon: Parkway Street (071-430 2636) Haymarket (071-432 1527) Tottenham Court Road (071-436 0146).

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CURRENT

CITIZEN KANE (U): Welles's entrancing recreation of the American dream celebrates its 50th birthday with a new print struck from the original. With Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten. Directors: Premiers (071-439 4470).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

522 (071-438 8891), Tonight, 7pm, 225mins.

MACBETH: Peter Woodward and Michelle MacLennan in study production. Open Air, Regent's Park, NW1 (071-498 2411), Tonight, 8pm, 150mins.

MADAME DE SADE: Yoko Matsushita invents a witty comedy on morality for the women. Heavy going. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Sat, 3.30pm.

MATADOR: The rise of The Boy from Nowhere: great dancing and sets but a weak second half. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 4444), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: Captivating performance by Edward Fox in Christopher Marlowe's comedy. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-871 1116), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

RICHARD II: Oliver Award-winning Ben Monaghan as the shuffling dictator. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-432 2222), Tonight, tomorrow, 7pm, mat, tomorrow, 1pm, 210mins.

THE ROSE TATTOO: Julia Walters as Cleopatra. West End, 7.30pm, 150mins.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Donovan sports a golden wig for the candy, beach event. Palladium, Argyll Street, W1 (071-484 5037), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 150mins.

KING LEAR: Perceptive production by Nicholas Hytner with John Wood in superb voice. Barbican, Barbican Centre, Silk Street.

CHILTERNHAM FESTIVAL

The world premiere of Richard Rodney Bennett's Four Seasons is preceded (6.30pm) by the composer talking about the work. Also in the programme, performed by the Royal Northern College of Music Wind Ensemble, is Holst's *Hammersmith*. Maxwell Davies's *St Michael's Sonnets* for 17 voices, and MacMillan's *Swansea Spring*. Town Hall, Imperial Square, Chilternham (0242 555950), 8pm.

JOAN ROGERS: As a counter-attraction to the above, Chilternham also offers the recital by the young soprano, who sings a catholic selection accompanied by Roger Vignoles. Works by Mozart, Schubert and Richard Strauss. Piffarelli Pump Room, East Approach Drive, Chilternham (0242 555950), 8pm.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

PM-MONEY OPERA: Preview of the PBN Theatre Company's music theatre/dance opera work. Set in a historical setting, it depicts a sister's drama for the future of her brother, with whom she shares a flat. Opera House, Barbican Centre, Old Town Hall, Leadenhall Street, London SW1 (071-223 2222), 8pm.

ZIGGY MARLEY AND THE MELODY MAKERS: The son of the great reggae singer, Ziggy Marley, begins to announce his talent in terms of songwriting and performance, but time may be on his side. Town and Country, Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 1221), 7pm.

THE MUSIC OF RUSSIA: The London Chamber Orchestra, with director/celebrated pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy, presents a programme of Russian music. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-432 2222), Tomorrow, 7pm, mat, tomorrow, 1pm, 210mins.

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BBC

6.00 *Casualty*. 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News*. 9.05 *Pinocchio*. Animated tales of the boy puppet 9.25 *Heartbeat*. Art for children. With Tony Hart, Mervyn Wilson and Alison Miller (r). (CeeFax)

10.00 *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Playdays* (r) 10.30 *Blackwies*. Game show for three teams, with Darius Day presiding over the contestants along (r) 10.50 *The O-Zone*. Chart-based music magazine

11.00 *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *The High Chaparral*. Indian cowboy series. A guest at the Cannon ranch provokes an attack (r) 11.55 *The Travel Show*. John Thirwall goes to Freiburg in the German Black Forest (r)

12.00 *News*, regional news and weather 12.05 *The Garden Party*. Magazine show from flower country, Glasgow, with features on Stevens from *Neighbours* and pugnacious television presenter James Whelan. Wales: Cricket (Glamorgan v West Indies) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather

1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather

1.30 *Neighbours*. (CeeFax) 1.50 *Tastes of Wales: Dairy*. Gill Davies's culinary journey through Wales serves up some of the things done with milk and cheese (r)

2.20 *Film: The Way to the Stars* (1945, b/w). RAF bomber station formed an unofficial second world war trilogy with Noel Coward's *In Which We Serve* (about the navy) and *Carte Blanche* (about the RAF). *The Way to the Stars* is a fast-paced now there is much emotional truth in the story. Terence Rattigan's script which interweaves the stories of airmen, British and American, with their public and their private moments. John Mills, Michael Redgrave and the Canadian actor, Douglass Montgomery, play the fliers. Jean Simmons makes a brief but unforgettable film debut singing "Let Him Go, Let Him Go" and the film has a superb opening sequence, in which the camera glides over the now deserted airfield, picking out the main strands of the drama. Wales: Cricket (Glamorgan v West Indies)

4.10 *The All New Popeye Show* (r) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show*. Nature series presented by Terry Nutkins, Chris Packham and Nicola Davis. Today, why zebras are striped and the noises that dinosaurs made (r). (CeeFax)

5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Gentle Ben*. Outdoor adventures about a boy and his pet bear (r). (CeeFax)

5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (CeeFax). Northern Ireland: Sportswide. 5.40 *Inside Ulster*

6.00 *The Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather

6.30 *Regional News*. Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*

7.00 *Good Sport*. Sporting magazine series. Actress Dyan Cannon looks into the star appeal of the LA Lakers basketball team, and John Fashanu on racing at Santa Pod (CeeFax)

7.30 *EastEnders*. (CeeFax)

8.00 *Waiting for God*. Winkly sitcom set in a retirement village. Starring Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole (r). (CeeFax)

8.30 *Big Break*. Turgid game show combining the talents of Jim Davidson with all the excitement of watching snooker stars put cup-wielders. (CeeFax)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Barker. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather

11.00 *Cagney and Lacey: The Psychic*. Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly are the female police duo in this neat series. Tonight a medium helps out on a missing woman case (r). (CeeFax). Wales: Cricket 11.30 *Cagney and Lacey*

11.50 *Weather*. Wales: 12.15am News and weather

BBC 2

6.45 *Open University: Physics - Gaseous Diffusion* 7.10 *Nitrate in Drinking Water*. Ends at 7.45

8.00 *News* 8.15 *Westminster*

9.00 *Catchword*. Word game, with Paul Cole in the chair (r)

9.25 *Film: I Married a Woman* (1958, b/w). Early anti-feminist romp, with an advertising executive taking a model from his boss commercial to be his wife, and then having to struggle to keep hold of both job and spouse. George Gobel wears the trousers. Diana Dora pulls the cheese cake poses, and Hal Kertel directs

10.50 *Animation Now: The Legend of Paul Bunyan* - a cartoon short about a North American folk hero

11.05 *He Who Dares Doings a Foolish*. The true tale of how a man survived a glider crash in the middle of the Australian outback (r)

11.35 *Off the Course*. Arnold Palmer. Anecdotes from the golfing legend (r)

11.55 *Stacy*. Dramatisation of the infamous 1932-3 England cricket tour of Australia (r). (CeeFax)

1.20 *Gordon T. Gopher*. With Philip Schofield 1.30 *Barney*. Cartoon (r) 1.35 *Sign Extra: Bezzar*. Magazine programme for the hearing impaired, today going to Fairfield, Tyne and Wear, where the whole village is on a diet (r)

2.00 *News* and weather followed by *Seven Ages of Marc Parnis* and *Tigers*. Infants talk about what it's like to be little (r). (CeeFax)

3.00 *News* and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather

4.00 *Recessed to Kill*. How the anti-hunting lobby in Leicestershire has tried to get blood sports banned 4.30 *Father Christmas: A Priest with a Difference*. Portrait of a priest who follows the teachings of an excommunicated bishop (r)

5.00 *When in Germany*. An introduction to the Teutonic way of life, beginning in Hamburg

5.30 *Gardeners' World*. Includes a visit to the Hampton Court Palace International Flower Show (r) Wales: Cricket

6.00 *Film: Escape from Fort Bravo* (1953, b/w). Solid western, set in Arizona during the civil war. A Confederate agent infiltrates a cruelly run Northern POW camp, but when he escapes he gets more Indian trouble than he bargained for. With John Huston and Eleanor Parker star in the desert dust, John Sturges directs. Wales: *Gardeners' World*. 6.30 *Film: Follow that Camel*

7.40 *Blitz* (b/w). Wise-cracking comedy with Phil Silvers as the fly sergeant (r)

Setting black against black: Jean-Marie Le Pen (8.05pm)

8.05 *Black on Europe: France*. ● CHOICE: France has three million blacks and in Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front, the largest extreme right wing party in Europe. Yet as this report shows, it is dangerous to make a simple connection between the two. The black population of France is split between West Indians, Guadeloupes, Guadeloupes and Guyana, and Africans. There is little love between the two. The West Indians regard themselves as true French citizens and the Africans as immigrants. Some West Indians even support Le Pen and his call to throw out the "foreigners". Meanwhile the Africans face equal living conditions, police harassment and high unemployment. The message of the excellent series is that where black minorities are concerned, no European country has come up with the answer

8.35 *Red Arctic: The Ultimate Galapagos*. When gold was discovered in the Soviet Arctic, the labour force to dig it out was forcibly recruited through the Stalinist purges. The most feared destination was the gulag in Kolyma, from where only a handful returned alive. The camp is now deserted, but gold is still mined there, with high wages being used instead of secret police to recruit workers. (CeeFax)

9.00 *The Best of Saturday Night Club*. The wry Aussie takes in another batch of ridiculous world television offerings, with contributions from America's first transsexual television evangelist, Sister Paula, and Scots comic Billy Connolly (r)

9.45 *From Wings to Warriors: Pains and Pleasures*. The "new man" series ends with a look into the world of the "new man" in masochism, with man explaining just why they like to dominate or submit, but like most of the series comes across as nine parts voyeurism. (CeeFax)

10.30 *Newsnight* with Franche Stone

11.15 *Jazz 625*. Tenor saxophonist Ben Webster is joined by pianist Stan Tracey 11.50 *Weather*

ITV

6.00 *TV-am*

9.25 *All Cried Up*. Game show for married couples, hosted by David Hamilton 9.55 *Thames News* and weather

10.00 *Out of This World*. Comedy series about a girl with an alien father

10.30 *Film: The Black Arrow* (1954). Concluding part of the screen adaptation of the famous Robert Louis Stevenson novel. Directed by John Hough 10.50 *Thames News* and weather

10.55 *Good Morning, Miss Bin*. Sitcom drama series starring Hayley Mills 11.25 *Oz Tales*. Two cartoons 11.55 *Regional News* headlines 12.00 *Cartoon* 12.10 *Rod, Jane and Freddy*. Today's theme is friends (r)

12.30 *News* with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and weather

1.20 *Home and Away*. (Oracle) 1.50 *A Country Practice*. Australian soap set in a rural community health clinic

2.20 *Talk the High Road*. Drama series set in the Scottish Highlands 2.50 *Thames News* and weather

3.00 *Thames News* and weather

3.15 *ITN News* headlines 3.20 *Thames News* headlines 3.25 *Families*. Soap linking the north of England with Australia

3.55 *Thames News* and weather

4.15 *The Drumsong*. Animated adventures (r) 4.40 *Children's Ward*. Hospital drama series (r). (Oracle)

5.10 *Blockbusters*. Bob Hoiness hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers

5.40 *News* with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather

5.55 *Thames News*. Jackie Stacey with an anecdote case history

6.00 *Home and Away* (r). (Oracle)

6.30 *Thames News* and weather

7.00 *Emmerdale*. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)

7.30 *Newsnight*. A new series looking at the people who work through the night. This week a London and Robert Downey Jr and Africa

8.00 *The Bill: The Juggler and the Fortune Teller*. Fast-paced police drama. WDC Martella endures a rape case that Di Burnside has become emotionally involved with

8.30 *Wheel of Fortune*. Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell. (Oracle)

Conspirators: Barbara Hershey and Bruce Boudleiner (8.00pm)

9.00 *Film: Passion Flower* (1986). A made-for-television thriller set in Singapore. Young bank executive Larry Jensen (Bruce Boudleiner) meets sassy heiress Julia Galtland (Barbara Hershey) and the two embark on an affair. Julia detests her wealthy and manipulative father (Nicol Williamson) and asks Larry to look into his shady dealings. Before long, murder is on the agenda. Directed by Joseph Sargent. (Oracle)

10.00 *News* with Ten with Alastair Stewart. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 *Thames News* and weather

10.40 *Film: Passion Flower* continued

11.30 *Prisoner: Cell Block H*. Australian drama set behind bars of a woman's detention centre

12.30am *Videoview*. Mariella Frostrup looks at the latest video releases, including *Home Alone* starring the super-cute Macaulay Culkin, *Ali* starring Will Smith, *My Darling Clementine* starring Clint Eastwood, *Millie*, a chilling tale of nuclear destruction with Anthony Edwards and John Agar

1.00 *Duels of the Mind*. Grandmaster and *The Times*' chess correspondent Raymond Keene presents 12 of the most celebrated chess games of all time, this week focusing on the Ossip Bernstein v Jose Capablanca match played in Moscow in 1924

1.30 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Impatient Patient*. A terminally ill old man plots revenge on a hospital volunteer who killed his pet mouse

2.00 *Donahue*. American discussion programme hosted by Phil Donahue, who tonight reunites some people who have not seen their siblings in more than two decades

3.00 *60 Minutes*. American news and current affairs magazine

4.00 *Entertainment UK*. Up-to-the-minute guide to the best in film, theatre, dance and music from across the country

5.00 *Three's Company: Urban Playboy*. American sitcom starring John Ritter

5.30 *ITN Morning News* with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*

9.25 *The Story of... Fleetwood Mac* (r) 10.25 *Famous for Four Minutes* 10.30 *Crusade*. Young people are given the chance to discuss topics that concern them (r)

11.00 *As It Happens*. Andy Kershaw visits *Wormwood Scrubs* (r)

12.30 *The Parliament Programme* presented by Sue Cameron

1.00 *Sesame Street* (r)

2.00 *Cities of Islam: Cairo*. The documentary series exploring historic Islamic cities continues with this look at the capital of Egypt (r)

2.30 *Film: They Were Not Divided* (1950, b/w). A documentary-style drama about an Englishman (Edward Underdown), an American (Ralph Centon) and an Irishman (Michael Brennan) who join the Welsh Guards during the second world war. Directed by Terence Young 4.20 *Insects*. Jimmy Murrain's animated insect battle

4.30 *Countdown*. The words and numbers game show

5.00 *News at 5*. A documentary about the cornucopia colonies of Polynesia's *Valley Islands* (r)

5.30 *A Century of Childhood: Broken Homes*. Series exploring the changing experience of childhood in the 20th century (r). (Teletext)

6.00 *Debut*. About an ill-matched couple living in Los Angeles

6.30 *Tour de France*. Stage 11 - Quimper to St Herblain, a distance of 247km

7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather 7.50 *Comment*

The rise and fall of a small hotel: Tess Lingwood (8.00pm)

8.00 *Options: A Story of Our Times*. ● CHOICE: This is definitely not a party political broadcast for the enterprising Tess Lingwood opens a new series of places to camera by relating the story of a small business, which prospered for a decade or so and then sank disastrously. Lingwood had all the right credentials. Like Mrs Thatcher, she was a grocer's daughter schooled in the Victorian virtues of independence and hard work. She and her husband bought a guest house in Tunbridge Wells, a Kentish showplace an hour from London and an hour from the sea. All went well until they decided to build on their success and redecorate the top floor. Work due to take four months stretched to 14. They had to turn away customers. The bank and the building society, so willing to lend money in good times, both pulled the plug. Next week's *Options* is delivered by Lady Poulton. Her subject is Mrs Thatcher. Will Tess Lingwood be watching?

8.30 *The Literary Land*. Melvyn Bragg presents the series exploring the link between British landscape (this week, the Fens) and the literary imagination. There are contributions from crime writer P.D. James and Graham Swift, author of the Fenlands novel *Waterland*. (Teletext)

9.00 *Without Walls*. Weekly arts series in two parts. Channel 4 launches *Film Talk*, its own film-review series in which two well-known guests are invited to discuss the week's films. Director Terry Gilliam and writer Lynda La Plante will discuss films including *Thelma & Louise* and *In Bed with Madonna*. In the last part of *Art is Dead... Long Live TV*, Muriel Gray discusses the series' treatment of Kenneth Hutchinson, Hannah Patherson, Richard Bradley-Hood and Laura Mason with the artists themselves

10.00 *Film: Shame* (1967). ● CHOICE: The plot could have come from a score of Westerns. It is the one about the lone stranger who arrives unannounced in a small town, smells out trouble and finds himself having to do what a man's gotta do. The difference in *Shame* is that the heroine is female and she rides not a horse but a motorbike. Gussly played by Deborah Lee-Furness she is Clint Eastwood and Perry Mason rolled into one, wielding her fists and upholding the law with equal facility. This is the new woman with a vengeance. The focus of her attention is a series of gang rapes and the film charts her attempt to stir a frightened community to act against the perpetrators. Director Steve Jacobson gives width to the story by setting it against the hard economics of small-town life and proves that a film about rape does not have to be prudent enough to show it

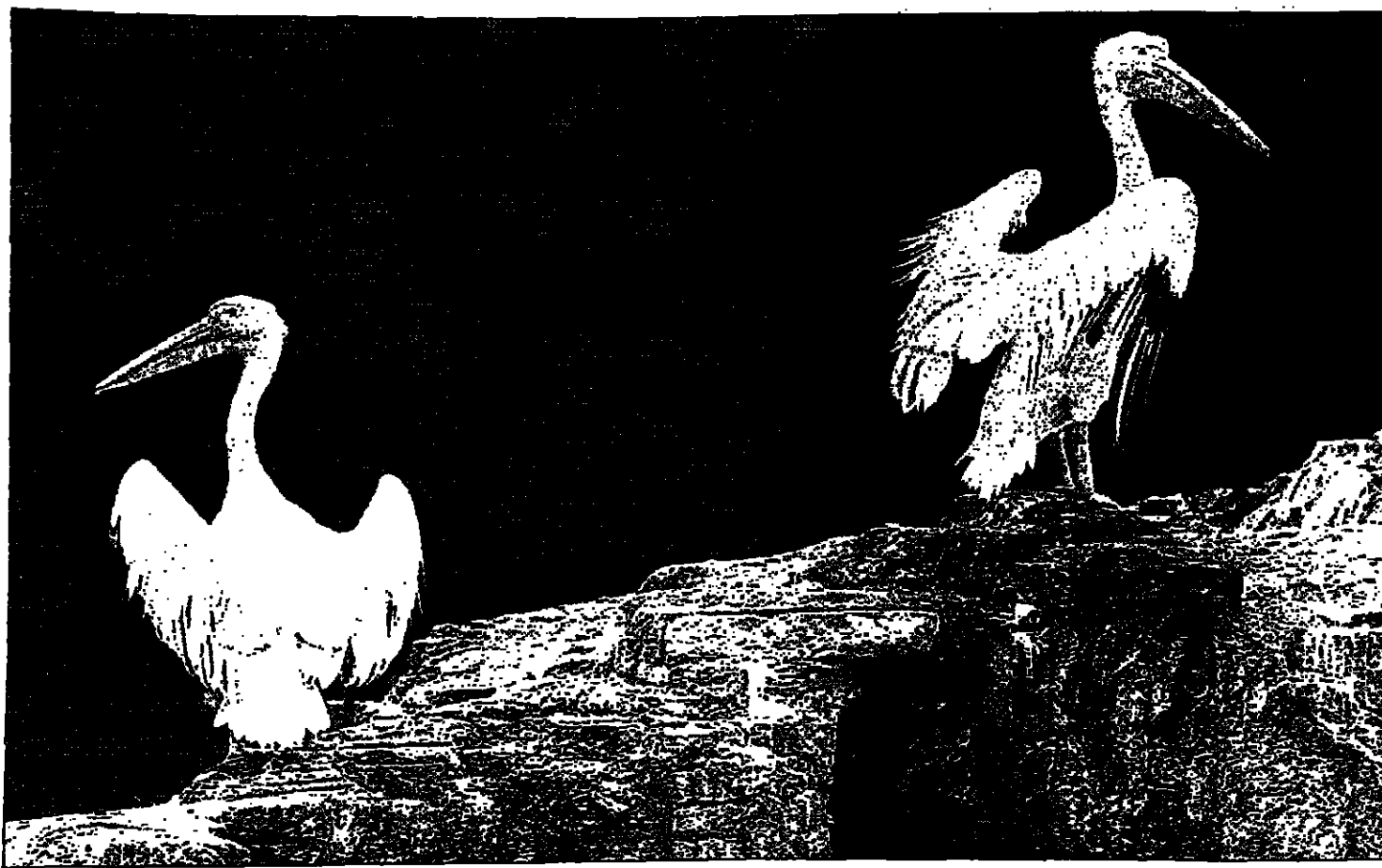
11.50 *Down Under*. Green. A bleak and provocative portrait of a possible future, made by director Greg Woodland

12.25am *Star Trek: The Sun's Garry Bushell* submits to the computer (r)

12.55 *Tour de France*. A repeat of the programme shown at 6.30. Ends at 1.25

ANGLIA

As London except 6.25pm-7.00 *Cartoon News* 7.00-7.30 *Cartoon News* 7.30-8.00 *Cartoon News* 8.00-8.30 *Cartoon News* 8.30-9.00 *Cartoon News* 9.00-9.30 *Cartoon News* 9.30-10.00 *Cartoon News* 10.00-10.30 *Cartoon News* 10.30-11.00 *Cartoon News* 11.00-11.30 *Cartoon News* 11.30-12.00 *Cartoon News* 12.00-12.30 *Cartoon News* 12.30-1.00 *Cartoon News* 1.00-1.30 *Cartoon News* 1.30-2.00 *Cartoon News* 2.00-2.30 *Cartoon News* 2.30-3.00 *Cartoon News* 3.00-3.30 *Cartoon News* 3.30-4.00 *Cartoon News* 4.00-4.30 *Cartoon News* 4.30-5.00 *Cartoon News* 5.00-5.30 *Cartoon News* 5.30-6.00 *Cartoon News* 6.00-6.30 *Cartoon News* 6.30-7.00 *Cartoon News* 7.00-7.30 *Cartoon News* 7.30-8.00 *Cartoon News* 8.00-8.30 *Cartoon News* 8.30-9.00 *Cartoon News* 9.00-9.30 *Cartoon News* 9.30-10.00 *Cartoon News* 10.00-10.30 *Cartoon News* 10.30-11.00 *Cartoon News* 11.00-11.30 *Cartoon News* 11.30-12.00 *Cartoon News* 12.00-12.30 *Cartoon News* 12.30-1.00 *Cartoon News* 1.00-1.30 *Cartoon News* 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Feeding time: pelicans in St James's park, London stretch their wings as feeding time approaches, unaware that a new face may soon replace the keeper who brings their food

THE 40 breeds of bird that flock to the lakes in the royal parks are likely to have to get used to some changes soon as six months of wrangling over the fate of the Queen's gardeners and gamekeepers comes to a head (writes Alice Thomson). The jobs of many of the people who look after the pelicans in St James's park

and the other birds in the royal parks are under threat. Among them is Malcolm Kerr, head birdkeeper for the royal parks, who is on call 24 hours a day and has looked after the birds for 30 years. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is expected to announce in parliament this week that maintenance of the royal parks — which include St James's, Green, Hyde and Buckingham Palace — will be contracted out and 361 staff could lose their jobs as private contractors are asked to bid for the work. The contracting out is designed to cut down the £22 million a year cost of running the parks. Substantial savings

will be made by removing staff pension rights and lowering wages although the treasury will have to pay compensation and redundancy. The gardeners and gamekeepers who work in the royal parks, anxious that their jobs are in jeopardy, have written to the Queen asking for her support.



Political sketch

Talking through a black top hat

YOUR sketchwriter's resolution has cracked. I am going to tell you about Mr Browne's black top hat. How else can I explain the fuss when he sat on it?

Every MP has a streak of the self-publicist. They learn to live with it as an addict may handle a drug habit allowing just so much, exercising self-discipline over when to stop. Like all sinners, MPs are quick to censure in others the temptations with which they themselves struggle. Thus, when Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton) told the energy secretary, John Wakeham, yesterday that "the Tories are too bloody mean to be green," immediate outrage followed. Cohen had broken an unspoken rule. Using rude words is not an acceptable form of attention-seeking, in the Chamber.

Nor is wearing silly hats. John Browne (C, Winchester) has had his personal troubles, but his enthusiasm for chosen causes remains undimmed. He has been trying to publicise the plight of three Grenadier guards who lost their legs during a training exercise in Canada. Of late, Mr Browne has taken to wearing a huge black silk top hat in the Chamber. He says he will not cease this dreadful practice until compensation is given to the guardsmen.

His stunt has met with fierce reaction from colleagues on all sides. Backbenchers, whips, ministers, and Mr Speaker himself, are furious. They are determined to stop him getting even a scrap of the attention he seeks, for, in their hearts, each knows that he or she would almost consider wearing a silly hat in parliament. Almost, but not quite: because MPs sense that, once a couple started wearing funny hats, everyone else would, too; or go one better, with a luminous vest or bells on their ears. Within days, Edwin Currie would be wearing an orang-utan chest-

mask while Harry Cohen would be waving a huge plastic banana.

I think the real reason that the guardsmen remain uncompensated is that this would be taken as a victory for Mr Browne and his top hat. Every new cause would then attract a crop of MPs on trick cycles in clever costumes, and Opposition spokesmen juggling chainsaws at the dispatch.

So the whole House is determined to take no notice of Mr Browne. Even the media have sensed this, and looked away. For weeks Mr Speaker has been trying not to see him. Obligated occasionally to let him speak, Mr Speaker has said "take that... that... thing off first," and Browne has obliged, doffing it as he stands, donning it as he sits.

This he did yesterday, during energy questions. No body can remember Mr Browne's question, for attention quickly moved to his hat. He had taken it off hesitantly, to speak. And Harry Greenway (C, Basing N), sitting next to him and perhaps conscious that this was a way of getting into television, devised his own version of a "Hello mum" placard, and waved Mr Browne's hat. Friends say he was trying to give it to Browne, who was actually addressing parliament at the time.

Finally, Greenway fired the hat, and shoved it back along the bench in Browne's direction. Just as Browne began to sit down, in a desperate move, Greenway now threw himself towards the hat, attempting to snatch it from the path of Browne's descending bottom.

Too late. Mr Browne shot up like a scalded cat. The abused hat was retrieved. Mr Speaker just groaned. Whether it has helped the legless guardsmen is an interesting question.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Authorities' loss may top £100m

Continued from page 1

Ward, assistant secretary at the Association of District Councils, who is co-ordinating action by councils, said: "The Bank of England has said it wants to begin the winding up process next week. Our priority now is to talk to Touche Ross, the liquidators, to see what assets there are. I am not at all optimistic."

Mr Ward urged councils which had not already declared their involvement to come forward. Thursday's meeting will hear a call for legal action against the brokers who arranged to place public funds with BCCI. A statement issued by one of the largest denied it had any duty to warn councils about the solvency of banks.

Touche and Tullent said: "We act by bringing together two parties who wish to transact. We in no way give guarantees concerning the bona fides of a party to a transaction. Indeed, the London Code [which regulates the work of brokers] makes it clear that it is the ultimate responsibility of the Principal to assess the creditworthiness of a counter party."

Labour, meanwhile, stepped up the pressure on the government and the Bank of

England last night to say why BCCI had not been investigated long before it crashed.

As MPs debated a scheme to prevent small investors losing money by forcing banks to make public disclosures of investigation, Chris Smith, a Labour treasury spokesman, pressed ministers to make clear what they had known and when. "If the investigation that was clearly necessary had taken place at an earlier stage, much of the pain which has been caused to depositors and to employees of BCCI could have been avoided."

It was Dr Macleod who suspended the finance director, Donald Macleod, after the loss became known. Mary

THE future of George Macleod, chief executive of the Western Isles, is under threat today. Some councillors are expected to call for his suspension or resignation at an emergency meeting to discuss the council's £23 million loss caused by the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

It was Dr Macleod who suspended the finance director, Donald Macleod, after the loss became known. Mary

Council chief faces call for resignation

By KERRY GILL

Bremner, a councillor from South Uist, said she was aware that a growing number of her colleagues felt that Dr Macleod should be suspended with other senior officials. Dr Macleod, who took over the post five years ago, said that he became aware of the huge investment with BCCI only on Tuesday of last week.

Questions were being asked last week about the finance department's action in allowing a junior official, Mhairi Macmillan, to make a deposit shortly before the bank's collapse. Councillors will demand to know why Donald Macleod continued to authorise deposits in spite of longstanding suspicions over the bank.

As long ago as September representatives of the breaking firm of R P Martin visited Stornoway to assure the council that BCCI was a secure bank. It emerged last week that one of its senior staff was John Macleod, the finance director's second cousin and one of the men who travelled to Stornoway to reassure council officials.

With the government's reiteration that it will not bail

out the Western Isles, there were fears yesterday of spending cuts in almost every department. In the Commons last night, Calum Macdonald, MP for the Western Isles, said: "It is not good enough for the government and the Bank of England to attempt to wash their hands of this." If that attitude prevailed, the old people and the children in his constituency, whose services and schools might be cut, would suffer.

Michael Forsyth, Scottish minister of state, who arrived in the Western Isles on other business yesterday, said: "I am puzzled why such large sums are involved. On the face of it, it looks as if the council may have been borrowing from the Treasury at one particular rate in advance, and then lending on to BCCI to make a return on the premium on the interest rates which would accrue."

Dr Macleod said last night that he had never considered resigning, and that he would appear at the meeting. Eight of the 30 councillors, however, seemed determined that he would have to be suspended or forced to resign.

Curtain falls on allied HQ

Continued from page 1

Operation Provide Comfort. The allies plan to set up a rapid deployment force of up to 3,000 men over the border — at the Turkish town of Silopi and the airbases at Batman and Incirlik — to prevent any future Iraqi crackdown. "We will be just a phone call away," said General Garner.

Coalition leaders made it clear even as they left that they possessed a new mandate to deter the Iraqi government from aggression against its own people. "We have a deep interest in peace throughout Iraq," said General Shalikashvili. "The violation of that peace by Iraq anywhere in Iraq is cause for us to take necessary action to restore that peace."

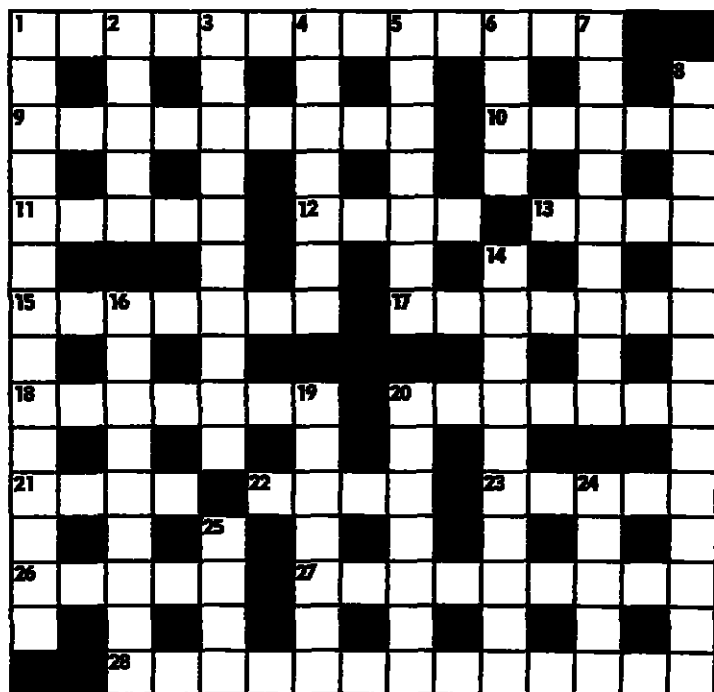
Mr Fred Cuny, a consultant to the US State Department, and the man who has taken charge of the humanitarian relief mission for the Kurds, said he thought Saddam Hussein would not risk fresh allied intervention in Iraq. Nor would the Iraqi leader be sure what form that intervention would take. "And fear of the unknown has got to be the greatest fear of all."

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

John Drummond, controller of BBC Radio 3 and moving spirit of the Proms, is one of the most controversial figures in the arts. His critics are as fiercely antagonistic as his supporters are fiercely loyal. Drummond talks to Richard Morrison about his fight to save the BBC's six orchestras, a fight conducted not least, he says, against the aesthetic within. He also discusses his own future when his Radio 3 contract expires next year.

Plus: a report on the factoring industry, which is popularly held to rub its hands in a recession as desperate businessmen search for loans. The reality is rather different.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,659



ACROSS

- 1 Clothing and grub (7-6).
- 2 Labour to produce traditional jazz introducing a live combo (9).
- 3 Pass close to with quiet greeting (5).
- 4 I'm 'into' literature, but there's a value in maths (5).
- 5 Port overseas, a resort of criminals (4).
- 6 Behold the city with a scowl (4).
- 7 Most daring items of underwear (7).
- 8 Second bushy-tailed animal in spruce (7).
- 9 Insects from area round street (7).
- 10 Deaf, we deduce? The signal is gradually dying away (4-3).
- 11 Drop in hole? (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,658

SCRAMBLING DINNER
N M W A L L E E
A P P L E R E A R L I G H T
F O E A T T U D
F I R E D R A K E R I B E R
L Y T F N E E E
D V A S I V E T R A V E L
P A T I E R E S T O R E
N N E G E R
R A N G E D E S P E R A T E
O I R U E L A T E R
S U G G A N E R A L I C E
E N O V N V N
S U R E T Y H E A D R E S T

DOWN

- 1 Eric Small's autobiography? (6,2,6).
- 2 Capone plus gun could cause this (5).
- 3 Viola's type to bring peace of mind (10).
- 4 Trusting terrible lie in loud speech (7).
- 5 Notice garment — name attached to it? (7).
- 6 Chest is carried by a knight (4).
- 7 Cha-cha music? (3,3,3).
- 8 What was said to epitomise Victorian lack of humour? (2,3,3,6).
- 9 One killed by misletoe? Damn rubbish! (10).
- 10 Some near-changeless being from above (9).
- 11 Master heard opposing worker, domestic employee (7).
- 12 Flimsy paper kept in folder? (7).
- 13 Party upset in Lincoln home (5).
- 14 Unpleasant matter? First ring work (4).

Concise Crossword, page 17

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

RABBIT

- a. A wrestling tournament
- b. A car boot sale
- c. An Underground mugging

UNCUS

- a. Formation of a scar
- b. One at a time
- c. A hook

REH

- a. A spiny fish
- b. The Hebrew letter R
- c. Effluence of sodium

EYRE

- a. Celtic name for Ireland
- b. One of the Furies
- c. A South American wild cat

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	London (within N & S Ceres.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1		732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.		733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-A23		734
M-ways/roads M23-A4		735
A25 London Orbital only		736
National		
National motorways		737
West Country		738
Wales		739
Midlands		740
East Angles		741
North-west England		742
North-east England		743
Scotland		744
Northern Ireland		745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

A cloudy start with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Brighter weather will spread from Northern Ireland reaching Wales, northern England and southern Scotland by early afternoon. The South-East is likely to stay cloudy until evening. There will be sunny spells and light showers. Scotland will have heavier showers and possibly some thunder. Outlook: mainly dry with sunny spells, followed by rain.

MOON: full moon, 16.00, 16.00, 16.00

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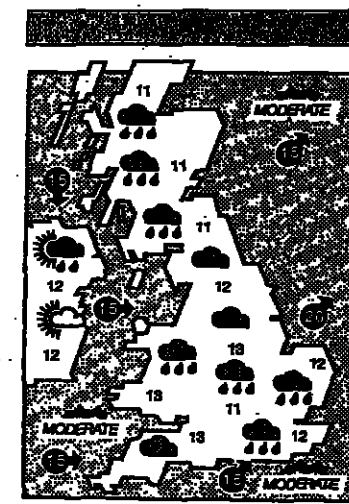
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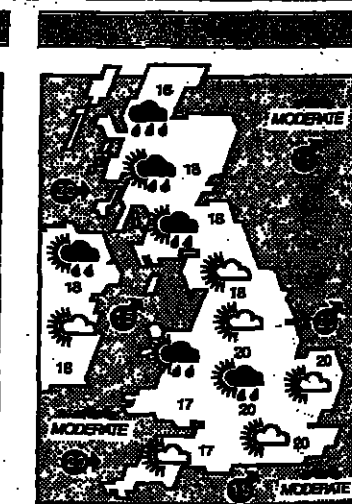
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US output suggests recovery

Industrial output in America rose 0.7 per cent in June to complete a full quarter of sustained growth in manufacturing, reinforcing the evidence of a modest recovery from recession.

The Federal Reserve figures showed that output rose 0.5 per cent in April and 0.7 per cent in May, both stronger than originally reported.

The output of motor vehicles, domestic goods, and construction supplies all rose significantly in June.

Alan Greenspan, the newly reappointed chairman of the Fed, is expected to give an upbeat assessment of the economic situation when he presents his half-yearly Humphrey Hawkins report to Congress.

Tomkins up 45%

PRE-TAX profits at Tomkins rose 45.5 per cent to £112 million in the year to end-April, helped by an eight-month contribution from Phillips Industries, the American holding company acquired last year for \$550 million. A final dividend of 7.00p (5.82p) makes 9.80p (8.22p).

Times, page 23

Wm Jacks issue

William Jacks, the loss making vehicle distributor, is to raise £2.05 million through a rights issue of convertible preference shares to reduce borrowings. The company also said there has not yet been any improvement in the new car market and does not expect to pay a dividend for the year to end-January 1992.

Hong Kong fraud

The former director of Hong Kong's Ka Wah Bank, Lok Chang-han, has been sentenced to five and a half years in jail on fraud and theft charges, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said. Low, a Singaporean, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the bank of HK\$680.5 million and to stealing HK\$4 million.

US dollar

1.6495 (+0.0040)
German mark
2.9535 (+0.0023)
Exchange index
90.4 (same)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share
1951.1 (+25.4)
FT-SE 100
2532.5 (+35.1)
New York Dow Jones
2985.24 (+4.47)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
23459.04 (+321.26)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Barclays 455p (+13p)
Lloyds 343p (+10p)
Nat West 315p (+12p)
Allied Lyons 520p (+12p)
Beech 504p (+14p)
Grand Met 789p (+12p)
Guinness 372p (+12p)
Body Shop 258p (+10p)
Reuters 825p (+14p)
Rothmans 'B' 385p (+11p)
Campania 345p (+13p)
Scottish TV 415p (+22p)
Unilever 750p (+14p)
Wellcome 721p (+25p)
Williams Holdings 321p (+12p)
Beazer 777p (+12p)
BAT 761p (+14p)
FALLS:
Hewlett 350p (-12p)
Diagen 815p (-20p)
AAH 359p (-11p)
Closing Prices...Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-11%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10%
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.58-5.59%
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.6495
DM: £2.9535
Sfr: £2.5325
FF: £0.0229
Yen: £225.5
Index: 90.4
ECU: £1.689440
SDR: £1.0074
ECU: 1.435973
SDR: 1.254455

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$359.10 pm \$357.80
Close \$358.70 \$359.20 (\$223.50)
224.00
New York:
Comex \$359.55-370.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) — \$19.55 bbl (\$19.75)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)

UK job cuts likely after banks merge

Manufacturers and Chemical plan \$5bn link

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

HUNDREDS of jobs are expected to be cut at the London operations of Chemical Bank and Manufacturers Hanover in the course of the merger of the two New York banks.

The move creates the second largest bank in America, capitalised at \$5 billion with assets of \$135 billion.

John Stefans, a spokesman for Manufacturers Hanover, said: "We have no definitive numbers yet, but London is the area outside the US where the two banks have the largest overlap. This does not mean we are de-emphasising London. We still regard it as the key to our European operations, but it is somewhere which offers the benefits of economies of scale."

Trump, the troubled New York financier.

James McDermott, president and analyst with Koef, Bruyette & Woods, the banking research specialist, said: "These two banks have been retrenching for some time and they wanted to give Wall Street some number that was achievable, but we may see these numbers (job cuts) go higher over time."

Manufacturers Hanover cut its dividend by 43 per cent in April on higher bad loan provisions and a 28 per cent drop in first quarter profits. Second quarter profits jumped 127 per cent to \$75 million, but its credit loss provisions rose 16 per cent to \$168 million.

At Chemical, second quarter bad loan provisions rose 64 per cent to \$135 million and net profits for the three months ending in June fell 19.6 per cent to \$102 million.

Under the terms of the deal, Chemical Bank will offer 1.14 of its shares for each share of Manufacturers Hanover. The combined group will have 176 million shares in issue, which at Chemical's price of \$26.625 last night would value it at almost \$4.7 billion.

John McGillicuddy, Manufacturers Hanover chairman and chief executive, will lead the bank until next January when Walter Shipley, Chemical's chief, will take over.

Mr Shipley said: "The new Chemical will be much more capable of investing to keep our business on the cutting edge, whether in professional talent, technology or new financial products."

"Chemical and Manufacturers Hanover have remarkably similar cultures, and both have already made very substantial strides toward refocusing businesses and reducing

expenses," he added. Talks between Chemical and Manufacturers, America's sixth and ninth largest banks, began in May but the parlous state of the industry may have heightened the urgency for a deal.

Analysts are forecasting a wave of mergers among banks that have been weakened by bad loans on commercial property and debt-financed management buyouts but now want to position themselves for the new American banking laws, the most sweeping since the Great Depression.

These are expected to allow the banks' return to share dealing for the first time in 60 years and expand their branch systems from individual states to nationwide networks. But to do that regulators are insisting on much stronger balance sheets. Capital ratios are believed to have disturbed banking regulators. Their report is due soon but it is thought they have been much tougher on defining bad debts and on ensuring these are adequately covered.

Frontline merger candidates include Security Pacific and Wells Fargo, which have already held talks, BankAmerica and First Interstate, the West Coast bank. To protect their own merger from any interference, Chemical and Manufacturers have adopted a "poison pill". Until completion, each has the option to take up to 19.9 per cent stake in each other's shares.

TVS bid details held back

By MATTHEW BOND

RUDOLPH Agnew, chairman of TVS Entertainment, yesterday refused to tell shareholders what their company had bid to retain its ITV franchise for the south of England. The figure would be in a circular to be sent to them in a few weeks time.

Mr Agnew said he had "enormous sympathy" with the shareholders' curiosity, which has been fuelled by recent press reports that the company has tendered £55 million to keep its franchise.

"We make no comment on the accuracy of any of the press or market analysts' speculation, all I will say is that we are confident of our ability to support the bid we have made," Pressed by Martin Jackson, one of the founders of TVS, Mr Agnew said: "We have to abide to our agreement with the Stock Exchange."

'Brutal' policy hits growth, says CBI

By ROSS TEBMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S economic growth has been set back by several years as a result of the "brutal" measures used to curb inflation, says the chief economic adviser of the Confederation of British Industry.

Although he was confident of industry's ability to recover, Professor Douglas McWilliams gave a warning that Britain would pay a high price for the boom in the second half of the Eighties.

"Over the period from 1988 to 1992, the recession will cost the UK in terms of economic growth forgone about twice as much it gained from 1985 to 1988 from excess growth. The price that has to be paid by British industry for problems in managing demand has been severe," he said.

His assessment of the damage caused by the recession, given in a presentation to the economic summit in London, is the most gloomy yet from the employers' organisation.

Although he spared the government explicit blame, his comments reflect industry's profound dissatisfaction with government's failure to moderate the swings in Britain's cyclical economy.

The problem of excess inflation had now been cured by engineering a violent downswing. But "this downswing has set the economy back by a number of years through its impact in damaging company finances and forcing firms to cut their fixed investment in plant and buildings."

Worldwide hunt for BCCI men

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Serious Fraud Office is undertaking a worldwide hunt for former senior executives of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International who may be able to reveal the reasons behind the massive losses suffered by the bank which led to its closure.

Sources close to the SFO said its investigators were keen to interview Swaleh Naqvi, BCCI's former chief executive, and Imtiaz Ahmed, the bank's head of worldwide credit, about the fraud at the bank, which was uncovered in a report delivered to the Bank of England last month. The SFO refused to comment on its investigation.

Neither man has been seen since the bank was closed by regulators two weeks ago in an international swoop. Reports have suggested that both are in Abu Dhabi, although one former BCCI employee suggested that Mr Ahmed was

in Amsterdam. Swaleh Naqvi ran BCCI throughout most of the Eighties from the bank's base in the City. He resigned as chief executive in October last year after the family of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, took a 77 per cent stake in the bank.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, has said the fraud at BCCI, which may amount to up to \$4 billion, was perpetrated through false accounting and the creation of fictitious or false loans.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England and international bank regulators are exerting pressure on the Pakistani government to close the three branches of BCCI in the country, due to fears that even more of BCCI's assets are being lost. Ian Wright, one of the liquidators from Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu in the Cayman Islands, said the firm was taking legal advice about the branches in Pakistan. Pakistan's central bank has said there is

no evidence of wrongdoing at the bank. BCCI was founded in Pakistan in 1972. Pakistan is the most significant country where branches of BCCI are still open, although several part-owned BCCI subsidiaries are also still operating. Branches are also open in the Bahamas, the Seychelles and Paraguay. The bank is closed in almost all the other 69 countries where it operated.

Mr Wright said he hoped to draw up a preliminary balance sheet for BCCI Overseas in the next two or three weeks. He has asked the offices in the 29 countries where BCCI Overseas operated for branch accounts. He complained, however, that he has not been allowed to see the Price Waterhouse report on the fraud at BCCI which was delivered to the Bank of England.

He is trying to discover where the fraud took place. The report's circulation has been severely restricted because of Banking Act regulations.



Change necessary if BA is to prosper: Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive

BA proposes sell-offs in sweeping reorganisation

By JOHN BELL AND PHILIP BASSETT

BRITISH Airways is proposing a sweeping reorganisation of its operations, involving sales of non-core activities, joint ventures and contracting out of services.

Among the most radical moves outlined to unions yesterday was a possible sale of the engine overhaul facilities in South Wales, with 1,000 employees. A disposal could raise more than £250 million for BA, whose profits are under severe pressure due to recession and increased competition.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA chief executive, emphasised that most staff would be unaffected, but that change was necessary if BA was to prosper.

Union leaders believe BA is likely to press ahead with its review and that the direction it wants to go has been clearly set — moving a number of its activities into stand-alone or joint venture businesses.

At yesterday's meeting the unions sought assurances, especially on maintaining conditions, and further information, and are likely to meet Sir Colin and the directors again soon.

One union official said: "They have obviously got to raise money. They need money. That stands out like a sore thumb."

Other activities under review include catering, contract handling, cargo operations, telexes, Cardiff airport 747 maintenance, avionics workshops, property services and engineering activities.

Sir Colin confirmed that several potential buyers had expressed interest in the engine overhaul business. Discussions would continue. He said catering costs were still not fully competitive with outside contractors. The gap would have to be closed if the business was to be retained.

United seeks Stansted route

By ROBERT BALLANTYNE
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

A TEAM of high-powered officials from United Airline yesterday met Malcolm Rifkin, the transport secretary to seek permission to fly daily between Chicago, the airline's main American hub, and London Stansted.

Stephen Wolf, president and chief executive of United and Lawrence Nagin and David Colman, the vice presidents, presented plans for a daily service using Boeing 767 aircraft. The airline started operating six routes through Heathrow in April.

Bilateral agreements on transatlantic routes do not distinguish between London's three airports, although exemptions have been granted in special situations. British Airways and American Airlines, which operate between Chicago and Heathrow, oppose United's application.

A transport department spokesman said Mr Rifkin had outlined his wish for a comprehensive liberalisation of transatlantic routes, but United's plans had to be approved first by the American transport department. Mr Colman said the private meeting had been useful and constructive.

Mr Wolf had earlier said the new airport at Stansted was "glorious", and that if United were allowed to use the facility, more carriers would follow. United planned to operate a single flight daily from October 1. United had lodged an application to the effect with the American authorities.

Mr Wolf disclosed that he had spoken to two leading European carriers that had expressed an interest in operating some flights out of Stansted. He declined to name them, but said they already operated out of Heathrow.

United was not seeking onward flights from Stansted to Europe, Mr Wolf added.

American Airlines described the United claim on the route as "nonsense", saying it had its own plans to serve the route next spring.

United's second quarter results are due on July 25. Mr Wolf said that the four airline in chapter 11 bankruptcy Continental, America West, Pan Am and Midway, were putting pressure on revenues.

Comment, page 2

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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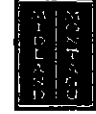
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Garston Amhurst directors sent to jail

FOUR financial advisers who swindled investors out of \$4.7 million while living a champagne lifestyle have been jailed at the Old Bailey.

Christopher Wright, who was only 18 when he launched Garston Amhurst Associates of Chelsea 11 years ago, began misappropriating clients' funds within months of its start-up, an Old Bailey court heard yesterday.

Wright and his fellow directors looted their clients' accounts and life savings to pay for their expensive lifestyles. They knew exactly what they were doing and there was no chance of repaying the money, said Mr Justice Lowry QC.

Judge Lowry told Wright, said to be the "driving force", that it was understandable that his ambitions were greater than his business experience and administration abilities.

But he and fellow director James Krekis continued to misuse clients' cash even when they knew discovery was only a matter of time. Wright even ordered £25,000 to be sent to him for gambling at a casino during a ski trip when he knew his fraudulent racket had collapsed.

With the company's deficit increasing, they were persuad-

ing clients to invest in a high interest account which never existed.

Wright had made "substantial personal gains" and persuaded the others to join in the swindle. More than 300 victims fell prey to the frauds including Wright's godmother who lost £443,000, and Peter Sutherland, his best friend, who lost £90,000, and his.

The judge said: "Some investors were ordinary people and you used their savings and modest capital sums they had put aside for retirement."

Richard Sutton, prosecuting, said clients funds were diverted and "ruthlessly rifled and anyone was fair game".

Mr Sutton said that shortly before the collapse of the firm, Krekis ran up bills of up to £50,000. Earlier, in 1988, Krekis and Wright had persuaded the National Finance Management Corporation to hand over a £500,000 loan to their company, pretending it was a "thoroughly respectable company".

Wright and Krekis finally went to officers of the Securities and Investments Board and confessed the frauds.

All that remained when the Serious Fraud Office moved in January last year was £20,000. But there could be no accurate figure put on the true sum the defendants obtained because many ledgers and documents were missing.

Wright, 29, of Kew Bridge Road, Brentford, Middlesex, was sent to prison for four and a half years. James Krekis, 33, of Wootton under Edge, Gloucestershire, was sentenced to three years. Gordon Davies, 32, of Manor Road, Romford, Essex, and Andrew Woodhouse, 39, of Hillside Cottage, Little Humby, Grantham, Leics, were each jailed for two-and-a-half years.

All four pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal. Wright, Krekis and Davies also admitted conspiring to obtain property by deception.

The judge said that he accepted that all the money they took had vanished and they had nothing saved away and as a result he would make no orders for compensation.

Each of the four was banned from being a company director. Wright for six years, Davies and Woodhouse for four years and Krekis for 18 months.



Boosted by acquisitions: Peter Wood (left) and Mike Marshall of Ellis & Everard

Midland denies concealing loss

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank has hit back at suggestions that it has concealed losses of £75 million over the past ten years in its trade finance arm.

The bank said the problem at Midland International Trade Services was revealed in Midland's 1983 annual report and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In both these, Sir Donald Barron, chairman at the time, wrote: "Midland International Trade Services suffered from adverse world economic conditions generally, as well as specific problems in Latin America." The SEC filing added that the subsidiary had been forced to make significant loss provisions.

Records on MITS at Companies House in London show it made a loss of nearly £48

million in 1983, more than a fifth of the group's profit. The loss that year, however, was overshadowed by Midland's £120 million provision against the loan book of Crocker, its former American subsidiary.

Midland has also denied it has connections with MTS and British security forces. An article in the *Financial Times* claimed that Midland had run a secret team of retired military officers as a trade finance unit for defence sales.

The bank said the team of army officers, which was disbanded last year, was never secret, despite a claim by George Barrett, one-time head of MITS, that he cannot remember the unit. "Mr Barrett might not recall all the decisions that were made at the time," Midland said.

'Blanket comfort' over Arrow issue

THE former head of County NatWest told trade and industry inspectors he was given "blanket comfort" over his worries on dealing with a big rumour of unwanted shares at the close of Blue Arrow's 1987 rights issue, a court heard yesterday.

Jonathan Cohen, former chief of the merchant bank running the £837 million issue, told the DTI he believed it was a "sunshine transaction" without problems.

A full transcript of Mr Cohen's evidence to the DTI, made on oath, was read to an Old Bailey jury.

Mr Cohen was telephoned hours after the issue closed by David Reed, County's managing director of corporate finance, who told him of the results. His colleague said "there had been a much larger stick than

Rise of 14% at Ellis & Everard

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ELLIS & Everard, the speciality chemicals group in which ICI holds 26.3 per cent, managed a 14 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, despite six months of recession at home and nine months of recession in America.

Mike Marshall, chairman, and Peter Wood, managing director, say the 23 per cent growth in sales to £358 million in the year to end-April was largely due to acquisitions during the year. Acquisition benefits also helped pre-tax profits rise to £17.5 million.

The recession in America may have bottomed out, but there is little evidence yet of an economic upturn in Britain, they added.

The final dividend rises from 4.62p to 4.8p, making 7.05p (6.74p) a share.

Ellis & Everard has shed 100 jobs in America and 40 jobs in Britain out of a total workforce of 2,000, and expects the benefits of various cost-cutting measures to be evident in the present financial year.

"We have taken our foot off the acquisition pedal but there could be some good opportunities to buy companies during the course of the recession," said Mr Wood.

Temper, page 23

Beazer rises 12p on profitable trade news

SHARES in Beazer, the debt-laden construction group, rose sharply after Brian Beazer, the chairman and chief executive, told shareholders that the company was trading profitably and had kept within its banking covenants. Last month the company issued a profits warning which resulted in the shares more than halving from 146p. Yesterday, the shares traded heavily and ended 12p up at 78p.

Mr Beazer told shareholders he was optimistic the company could complete debt negotiations, including the alteration of loan covenants, by the end of August. He said subject to shareholder approval and market conditions, the company hoped to list its European operations, renamed CHB Group, by the end of September. The chairman also affirmed his decision to change Beazer's domicile to America once the company has been split in two.

Payout passed at Tyndall CNW closes in Hong Kong

THE effects of Tyndall Holdings, the financial services concern, pulling out of its Australian business meant no dividend for the 16 months to end-April (5.5p for the previous year to end-December 1989). Pre-tax profits were £2.28 million in the 16 months after the change of financial year end, compared with £4.33 million for the previous 12 months. Tyndall hopes to pay a dividend for the first half of the current year.

COUNTY NatWest Securities Asia has closed its Hong Kong office, laying off about 65 employees. Scott Dobbie, vice chairman of County NatWest Securities, the securities arm of National Westminster Bank, said the broker's once-dominant position in the local market had weakened in recent years and it was not viable. Mr Dobbie said the Tokyo office, the company's main presence in Asia, was scaled down earlier this year.

Automated at £14.8m

THE economic slowdown in Britain, and the lack of earnings from associate companies, held back the interim performance at Automated Security (Holdings), the provider of electronic security, with pre-tax profits ahead from £13.5 million to just £14.8 million in the six months to end-May.

Tom Biffert, the chairman, said there were almost no orders in January and February because companies deferred investment decisions during the Gulf war. The second half started with an improvement, but the company had not yet returned to normal trading. The interim dividend is raised to 2.07p (1.8p). Trading profits rose 14 per cent to £21.1 million, but the share of profits from associate companies fell to £170,000 (£15 million). ASH sold its shareholding in Gardiner Group, contributing to extraordinary profits of £2.62 million, and other investments are being run down.

Setback for Chelsea Man Bula makes cash call

Chelsea Man, the USM quoted clothing chain, has unveiled a £329,000 interim pre-tax loss for the six months to end-September 1990. The deficit compares with a £48,000 profit for the half year to December 2, 1989. There is no interim dividend (0.8p). The company said that trading continued to be "extremely difficult with no immediate prospects of improvement". Sales were marginally up at £10.6 million.

BULA Resources (Holdings), the Irish oil independent, is raising £11.7 million (£10.59 million) through a one-for-one rights issue to fund exploration and development in Ireland and abroad. Shares are offered at 2.25p against a market price of 2.5p. Bula proposes to switch from the Unlisted Securities Market to the main list. Net losses were £62.33 million for 1990 (£2340,000 losses). There is again no dividend.

Rosehaugh in talks at Stanhope

By MATTHEW BOND

ROSEHAUGH and Stanhope Properties, the two property development companies, have confirmed that they were in talks that could result in a merger of the two companies.

The companies share their biggest asset, the associate company that has developed the Broadgate complex at Liverpool Street station, East London, and is developing Ludgate, near St Paul's Cathedral.

Both Rosehaugh and Stanhope-Stanhope Developments, have substantial borrowings and analysts estimate that a merged group could have gearing of well over 200 per cent.

Rosehaugh's shares advanced 5p to 38p on the news, while Stanhope was unchanged at 42p.

Kuwait to borrow £21bn abroad

THE Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, has given his government the go-ahead to seek 10 billion dinars (£21 billion) in foreign borrowings to finance post-war reconstruction.

A decree by the Emir published in Kuwaiti newspapers said the finance ministry would be responsible for tapping the international market to raise the cash and had the authority to decide the best form of borrowing. The move marks the first time the once super-rich emirate had sought foreign financing.

Latest estimates suggest Kuwait will have to spend about \$20 billion on reconstruction,

excluding the cost of financing the military operations of the allied troops that drove Iraq from Kuwait at end-February.

Nasir Abdel Allah al-Rawdan, the minister of finance, said last month the cost of financing the international force was \$22 billion.

"The borrowing will be effected by the methods set out in the emiri decree... without restricting it to the issuing of treasury bills and bonds in the local market, by borrowing in various international financial markets," the decree said.

"The minister of finance is empowered to authorise one party or more to undertake on behalf of the finance ministry the task of securing and managing the loans."

Kuwait's oil industry was devastated at the end of February when Iraq's retreating armies set fire to 600 oil wells. The fires have sent an estimated \$100 million worth of



The Emir of Kuwait: decree oil up in smoke each day. The emirate produced up to 2 million barrels per day before the Iraqi invasion.

Kuwait has overseas assets estimated at more than \$100 billion but their wholesale liquidation could upset world equity markets, which the emirate is anxious to avoid.

"The figure of 10 billion dinars in foreign borrowing

fits in well with the needs of the government," a Kuwaiti official said.

Apart from rebuilding the war-shattered economy and paying for the allied war effort, Kuwait needs to meet the needs of a population used to a lavish welfare system.

The decree ended weeks of speculation that Kuwait was seeking billions of dollars in foreign finance for its rebuilding. The emirate is also seeking cash on the local market.

Last week the central bank resumed issuing treasury bonds suspended after the invasion.

Kuwaiti economists say the emirate faces a host of economic problems. The government, which expects a deficit of \$80 billion over the next five years, needs to meet the cost of reconstruction while awaiting the return of petrodollars through oil exports, halted since the invasion.

(Reuters)

Acquisitive CRT reports £5.47m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

CRT Group, the training, recruitment and consultancy company, has capped a financial period to end-April that included six acquisitions for an initial outlay of £21 million, with annualised pre-tax profits of £5.47 million and turnover of £38.7 million.

Statutory results for the 16 month period to end-April show pre-tax profits of £5.19 million. Because of its rapid expansion and the group's changed corporate structure, a profits comparison with the previous accounting period that covered the 12 months to end-December 1989, which showed a £1.89 million pre-tax loss, is not relevant.

CRT is making a single dividend payment of 2p a share, payable out of net

earnings of 7.22p a share. Mike Griffiths, chairman, said that despite the difficult economic climate, CRT was confident it could continue to show progress this year.

The group's training activities were brought together by merger and acquisition during the period to end-April. CRT said that, on a like-for-like basis, training would increase its proportion of group turnover over the coming years.

CRT said the period ahead was likely to be dominated by organic growth which would become more important. The group faces an outstanding maximum deferred consideration of £4.54 million for acquisitions. The final amount depends on pre-tax profits of companies acquired.

THE TIMES

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Application Forms must be received by
FRIDAY 10.00 a.m.

Ford forms joint deal in Portugal

FORD of Europe said it and Volkswagen of Germany would invest \$2.8 billion in a Portuguese car joint venture.

The new company will develop and manufacture an MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) and will be 50-50 owned by the two companies. Volkswagen will lead the engineering and design programme and Ford will lead the manufacturing programme.

The investment programme for the entire project is valued at \$2.8 billion. The Portuguese government will contribute 30 per cent towards the scheme, a substantial share of which will originate from the European Community Regional Development Fund.

Production will start at the end of 1994 and the firm will directly compete with the Espace model made by France's Matra for Regie Nationale des Usines Renault.

Japanese car makers also have MPVs on the road. Ford and Volkswagen will build a new plant at Setúbal, near Lisbon.

At full capacity, its annual output will be 180,000 units. The MPV market has grown 80 per cent a year since 1986.

FT-100 INDEX (25/11)									
Index	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
ALL IND	300	310	320	330	340	350	360	370	380
ASIA	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180
EURO	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280
US	400	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480
UK	500	510	520	530	540	550	560	570	580
FT-100	600	610	620	630	640	650	660	670	680
FT-100	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780
FT-100	800	810	820	830	840	850	860	870	880
FT-100	900	910	920	930	940	950	960	970	980
FT-100	1000	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	1060	1070	1080
FT-100	1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	1170	1180
FT-100	1200	1210	1220	1230	1240	1250	1260	1270	1280
FT-100	1300	1310	1320	1330	1340	1350	1360	1370	1380
FT-100	1400	1410	1420	1430	1440	1450	1460	1470	1480
FT-100	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
FT-100	1600	1610	1620	1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680
FT-100	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750	1760	1770	1780
FT-100	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880
FT-100	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980
FT-100	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
FT-100	2100	2110	2120	2130	2140	2150	2160	2170	2180
FT-100	2200	2210	2220	2230	2240	2250	2260	2270	2280
FT-100	2300	2310	2320	2330	2340	2350	2360	2370	2380
FT-100	2400	2410	2420	2430	2440	2450	2460	2470	2480
FT-100	2500	2510	2520	2530	2540	2550	2560	2570	2580
FT-100	2600	2610	2620	2630	2640	2650	2660	2670	2680
FT-100	2700	2710	2720	2730	2740	2750	2760	2770	2780
FT-100	2800	2810	2820	2830	2840	2850	2860	2870	2880
FT-100	2900	2910	2920	2930	2940	2950	2960	2970	2980
FT-100	3000	3010	3020	3030	3040	3050	3060	3070	3080
FT-100	3100	3110	3120	3130	3140	3150	3160	3170	3180
FT-100	3200	3210	3220	3230	3240	3250	3260	3270	3280
FT-100	3300	3310	3320	3330	3340	3350	3360	3370	3380
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FT-100	3600	3610	3620	3630	3640	3650	3660	3670	3680
FT-100	3700	3710	3720	3730	3740	3750	3760	3770	3780
FT-100	3800	3810	3820	3830	3840	3850	3860	3870	38

British Airways is preparing to clear the decks for what promises to be the toughest few years since the group emerged from the public sector. Alongside the task now in hand, the transformation of BA from a near bankrupt, grossly overmanned, inefficient branch of the civil service into the world's most profitable airline was simple. The proposals, which will effectively unbuckle its separate activities, are the final death-knell to the last relics of BA's public sector days.

One measure of the pressures on BA are being shown up in profits, or rather, the lack of them. In BA's best year, the group made £569 million. This year, net of aircraft sales and other non-trading items, there will be precious little, if any from which to even pay a dividend.

Recession and the sharp fall-off in business travel in the aftermath of the Gulf war account for much of the pain. But latterly BA has had to face a sustained attack on its route structure from would-be competitors and the opening up of Heathrow, still the most

important gateway into Europe, to lively and free spending new entrants.

BA, rather like British Telecom, is being given a rough ride by its industry regulator at home while the same regulator is laying down the welcome mat to overseas newcomers. In BA's case the new rivals such as United and American have deep pockets and are prepared to spend heavily to establish new transatlantic markets. They also have the priceless advantage that their home markets are deregulated so far as domestic carriers are concerned but fiercely protected against foreign intervention. While Britain continues to regulate according to Marquess of Queensbury rules when others have more street-wise standards, BA will have to fight to avoid a steady loss of business and profits.

Some unbundling of its non core operations is an obvious if painful way of cutting costs and

Make or break-up time for BA

COMMENT

generating some profits at the bottom of the airline cycle. The mix presented to the unions and management yesterday offer a number of potential options. The engine overhaul business in Cardiff should prove attractive to the aero-engine manufacturers and net BA upwards of £250 million.

Union reaction to such sweeping change may be robust. But if ever there was a time when BA needed to reduce its cost base, it has arrived.

Wolf's waves

Not for nothing does United Airlines pay its chief executive \$18.3 million a year, the highest salary in American industry. Stephen Wolf is a wily bird.

Just over three months has elapsed since United flew into British Airways' headquarters at London Heathrow, and already the Americans are making waves. Their plans for London Stansted, while apparently innocently extending competition at a grossly under-used airport, drive a coach and horses through the bilateral agreements which limit the London-Chicago route to British Airways and American Airlines.

Mr Wolf is full of praise for the new airport, for the management at BAA, and for free market principles and expanded competition. But he, like American Airlines, speaks from a position of domestic domination.

If, as he hopes, Mr Rifkind allows the Stansted route, what then? Will United in five years serve a dozen European capitals transatlantic, and then demand

from Brussels the right to fly between them?

His pleas for open skies would sound less hollow if he backed British Airways when they seek limited routes within the United States. Instead, he and every United spokesman (and other American airlines, for that matter) talk of problems with Brussels, of restrictions by certain European governments, of Britain as only part of the picture. He could do better.

Mr Rifkind's decision to allow United and American — and Virgin — into Heathrow has shown willingness to level the playing field between the US and the UK. When next BA goes cap in hand seeking support from Congress for limited access to US internal flights, Lord King should have Mr Wolf on his right hand, pleading reciprocity.

Mr Rifkind should welcome United into Stansted when he has exacted a fair price in dollars for the concession. But Mr Wolf has

not yet thrown off his sheep's clothing.

Brash bonus

Don Brash, governor of New Zealand's central bank, deserves a handsome bonus, if inflation stays on its downward track. Contrary to the popular tale that circulated in the City, his remuneration is not linked to his success in defeating inflation. The good employed is worse. His five-year, renewable term of office on the line, in the event that he underperforms in securing price stability.

Doubtless, he is pleased to see that consumer price inflation slowed to an annual 2.8 per cent in June, its lowest for a quarter of a century. Antipodean analysts expect annual inflation of 1.5 per cent, or possibly less, in December.

Mr Brash will have hit his statutory inflation target range of zero to 2 per cent a year ahead of schedule. And what a distance the Kiwis have travelled. A year ago, annual inflation was at 7.9 per cent.

Will the West raise the stakes to aid the USSR?

FEW people take a more active interest in the issue of aid to the Soviet Union than Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. His interest is understandable, not least because the EBRD could become prominently involved in the process, if all goes according to plan.

M Attali's plan envisages a change to the EBRD's founding treaty, which stipulates a ceiling to the bank's lending and investment exposure to the Soviet Union of 6 per cent of its capital, equivalent to the Soviet stake in the bank. M Attali has few qualms about seeing that ceiling scrapped.

The proposal has divided the EBRD's shareholders and raises a series of issues about the bank itself, and more importantly about the nature of, and relationships between, the East European economies. The principle argument in favour of the plan — other than the obvious one, that the Soviet Union is in more desperate need of aid than, say, Hungary — is that the fate of the Soviet economy is not separable, at least in the short term, from that of the rest of East Europe. East European trade with the Soviet Union might have gone down 50 per cent in the past year, but for most countries of the region the Soviet Union remains the most important trading partner, and an eclipse of the Soviet economy would drag them all down.

Since full integration of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary into the European Community cannot realistically be expected before the end of the decade, these countries can ill afford to turn their backs on the Soviet Union in the meantime. It should, therefore, be in their own interests for the EBRD to open up to the Soviet Union.

The rationale used by those who want to retain the present ceiling is that the Soviet Union's capital needs would dwarf those of the other East European countries, and that the bank would be in danger of becoming lopsided. Furthermore, they would argue that the Soviet Union should continue to be treated differently



Helping hand: Jacques Attali wants the EBRD to give more to the Soviet Union

from other parts of East Europe, which have freely elected governments and relative political stability, while the political uncertainties of the Soviet Union could prove a minefield for the EBRD.

While it may be true that Eastern Europe finds some solace in retaining trade with the Soviet Union, there is equally no doubt that East Europeans are looking towards the West, rather than

would affect some of the complementary measures: investing in infrastructure, technical assistance and encouraging private investment.

Even though these measures are supplementary, they will be substantial in cash terms and could, at the very least, have medium-term implications for the EBRD's capital requirements. While the EBRD with a capital of Ecu10 billion is not in danger of

ready apparent in Germany, which has learnt that the cost of restructuring has a tendency to be vastly underestimated.

It is uncertain yet, whether M Attali can prevail with his plan. The Americans, the largest shareholder in the bank, are firmly opposed, as are others. The French support the plan. Gunther Winkelmann, the German director at EBRD, yesterday firmly denied suggestions that Germany is sceptical about the plan and insisted that Germany will lend its full support to the proposal, a stance which has the official backing of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Theo Waigel, the finance minister.

Much will depend on the American attitude. Even though the Europeans have an overall majority on the EBRD board, the issue is unlikely to be settled in a straight vote. On the question of aid for the Soviet Union there are enough disagreements already.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business
Correspondent

'Jacques Attali has few qualms about seeing the ceiling scrapped'

the East, once described by Vaclav Klaus, the Czech finance minister, as a "poor men's club".

M Attali's proposal is not a claim to institutional exclusivity. The most substantial part of assistance, if and when such a package is agreed, would come in the form of an IMF orchestrated stabilisation fund element which looks increasingly doubtful. The proposed lifting of the EBRD's ceiling

running out of cash in the foreseeable future, even if the ceiling is lifted, it is conceivable, at some point in the future, that greater exposure for the Soviet Union might eventually crowd out other investments. The smaller countries of East Europe might respond with calls for an increase in the bank's capital. More importantly, this could coincide with an attack of aid fatigue in the West — a phenomenon al-

ready apparent in Germany, which has learnt that the cost of restructuring has a tendency to be vastly underestimated.

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WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business
Correspondent

Tomkins rides the recession

TEMPUS

AS track records go, that of Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate, takes a lot of beating. In ten years, earnings per share have improved at a 31 per cent compound annual rate, dividends by 30 per cent and net assets per share by 23 per cent. Small wonder that in the same period Tomkins' share price has risen 31 times.

Tomkins' one-year record is not bad either. While many of its peers have been hit by escalating interest costs, tumbling sales and shrinking margins, Tomkins is riding the recession very nearly unscathed. Pre-tax profits rose 45 per cent to £112 million, earnings per share 5 per cent to 26.3p and dividends, a clear sign of confidence in the company's future, up 20 per cent to 9.86p.

Gregory Hutchings, the chief executive, rightly takes most pride in the increase in earnings, given that it came in the year when the opportunist company made its biggest acquisition to date, the \$550 million purchase of Philips Industries in America. Renamed Tomkins Industries, it has responded to treatment and in

eight months contributed £26.3 million to group trading profits of £97.8 million.

Strip out Tomkins Industries' £330 million sales, and turnover in the remaining businesses actually fell, albeit only 1.4 per cent to £709 million. Gross margins on these businesses rose, though, from 9.75 per cent to 10.1 per cent.

With Tomkins' 1988 American purchase, Murray Ohio, performing well, and the best of Tomkins Industries still to come, the group is well placed to benefit from economic revival in America, where 65 per cent of its sales arise.

With year-end cash of £46 million, Tomkins is already on the hunt for a British acquisition. This would have the triple benefit of reducing risk, increasing exposure to a later revival in the domestic economy and nipping in the bud any advance corporation tax problem. Pre-tax profits this year could reach £130 million, putting the shares on a price

earnings multiple of 13. Not one to be without.

Ellis & Everard

ELLIS & Everard, the speciality chemicals group, concedes that the recession finally caught up with it in the last six months of the year to end April, and that it has (temporarily) taken its foot off the acquisition pedal.

Having spent most of last year's £29 million rights issue on deals in America, Ireland and Spain, the task now is to concentrate on organic growth and so repair the setback in net earnings, which slipped from 18p to 15.9p a share, earned from pre-tax profits of £17.5 million (£15.4 million).

The cost of nine months of recession in America and six months of recession at home was an estimated £2 million. There was a further £750,000 knock because of currency

movements, and a sharply lower price for chlorine, which meant lower margins, did not help. But the final dividend rises to 4.8p (4.62p), making 7.05p (6.74p) for the year.

Ellis & Everard has started to tackle its cost base. The benefits should be evident in this first half. By the balance sheet date, the group had clipped the gearing level from 29.3 to 25.5 per cent. Interest cover remains a healthy 20 times.

Capital expenditure will be about £9.9 million against there could well be acquisition opportunities begging to be seized as the weak go nearer the wall. Meanwhile, it looks like being an uninspiring first half, but possibly a stronger second half, which could see year-end pre-tax profits of £18 million. But earnings would be flat at 16p a share.

ICI remains a 26.3 per cent shareholder, and at 184p, down 1p. Ellis shares trade on a prospective 11.5 times earnings. They have lost their traditional premium rating but remain worth holding for the eventual upturn.

WHO HAS REAL LOCAL MARKET STRENGTH IN EUROPE?

Clearly, the leading investment and merchant banks across Europe are the leading local market operators.

Euromobiliare SpA in Italy, Trinkaus and Burkhart KGaA in Germany, Guyerzeller Bank A.G. in Switzerland, Midland Bank S.A. in France and others in key economies such as Spain, Norway, Sweden and Greece.

Yet all these are also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu & Co Ltd being the focus in the UK.

These institutions are regarded in their own countries as leading domestic banks and control significant local market share. As such they are naturally part of the local financial infrastructure and an integral partner of local business. Within a powerful network, they provide undisputed local market strength, contacts at the highest levels and individual product expertise that is vital for cross border success.

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- MIDLAND BANK S.A. Paris
- MIDLAND MONTAGU BANK Stockholm
- GUYERZELLER BANK AG Zurich

MIDLAND GROUP

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pregnant pause for Ratner

MORE anxious moments for Gerald Ratner, chairman and chief executive of Ratners Group, that purveyor of priceless gems. He was due to become a father, for the fourth time, at the weekend, but baby Ratner is keeping everyone waiting. Owing to the wonders of modern technology, Ratner, who has three daughters, knows the new baby will be a boy. "We've painted the nursery blue, so it had better be a boy," he says. Rumours that Ratner and his second wife Moira are set to become the latest celebrities to introduce their offspring to society through the glossy pages of *Hello!* magazine are being vigorously denied. For obvious reasons, Ratner's public relations men have advised him to keep his head down for the time being.

CITY wags have their work cut out thinking of a monicker for the company that will result

from the merger of Manufacturers Hanover, popularly known as Manny Hanover, and Chemical Bank, which was confirmed yesterday. How about Manachef?

Cards from the edge

FORTUNATE is he who fully understands the minds of private investors. Bula Resources boasts a shareholder living on the eastern coast of Ireland who acquired shares in the Irish oil concern after watching their exploration efforts in the Irish Sea through a powerful set of binoculars. The shareholder — known by Mr Murphy — also keeps a keen eye on the activities of the rival Marathon Oil and makes sure James Stanley, chairman of Bula, is kept posted. "At first we were not too sure," said Mr Stanley. "But when he was right the second time we began to take him seriously." Whatever his reasons, Mr Murphy is in good company at Bula. A fellow shareholder is Michael Smurfit, the Irish magnate, who together with

family associates is believed to speak for 4 per cent of the company. A shame, then, that the shares, which peaked at 15p ahead of the crash in 1987, now trade at just 2½p.

A TORCH on sale in Australia comes complete with the warning: "The guarantee does not cover shark bite, dog attack or children under five."

Pryde and partner

SOME of the larger players in corporate finance may be retrenching, but Singer & Friedlander continues to expand. Jack Pryde and Toby Hayward, both formerly of Lloyds Merchant Bank, took up their roles as director and assistant director, respectively, at S&F's Bishopsgate headquarters in the City yesterday. Working under Marc Cramsie, who joined as director of corporate finance from Kleinwort Benson three months ago, Pryde and Hayward's brief is to develop S&F's list of corporate clients, which at present has a strong regional bias. The two worked

together for five years at Lloyds.

Forté for figures

FORTE, hoteliers, caterers — and chartered accountants? Lord Forte's hospitality empire could soon be competing with the likes of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock and Touche Ross after receiving accreditation from the Institute of Chartered Accountants. It means the company, which spends £35 million on training each year, can now train its own accountants up to chartered status. Donald Main, finance director, says: "We were very keen to see people trained in industry away from traditional offices." He adds Forte will benefit by having newly-qualified accountants involved in the industry from day one. Does this mean that as well as balance sheets, taxation and cash flow, Forte accountants must know how to turn down beds and fry chicken à la Kentucky?

MARTIN BARROW



Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page daily. Add them up to give you your daily dividend figure. If it matches the overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If you win, follow the prize money stated. If you win, follow the prize money stated. If you win, follow the prize money stated. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Share	Dividend
1	First Leisure	100	1.00
2	Vine Group	100	1.00
3	Ryl Bt Sport	100	1.00
4	Lease	100	1.00
5	Utd Marine	100	1.00
6	Redford	100	1.00
7	Freem King	100	1.00
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11	Rural Plant	100	1.00
12	Br Airways	100	1.00
13	McKendrick	100	1.00
14	Sainsbury J	100	1.00
15	Bank Of Ireland	100	1.00
16	Canal TV	100	1.00
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Derek Johnson, of Swadincote, Derbyshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Share Price Dividend

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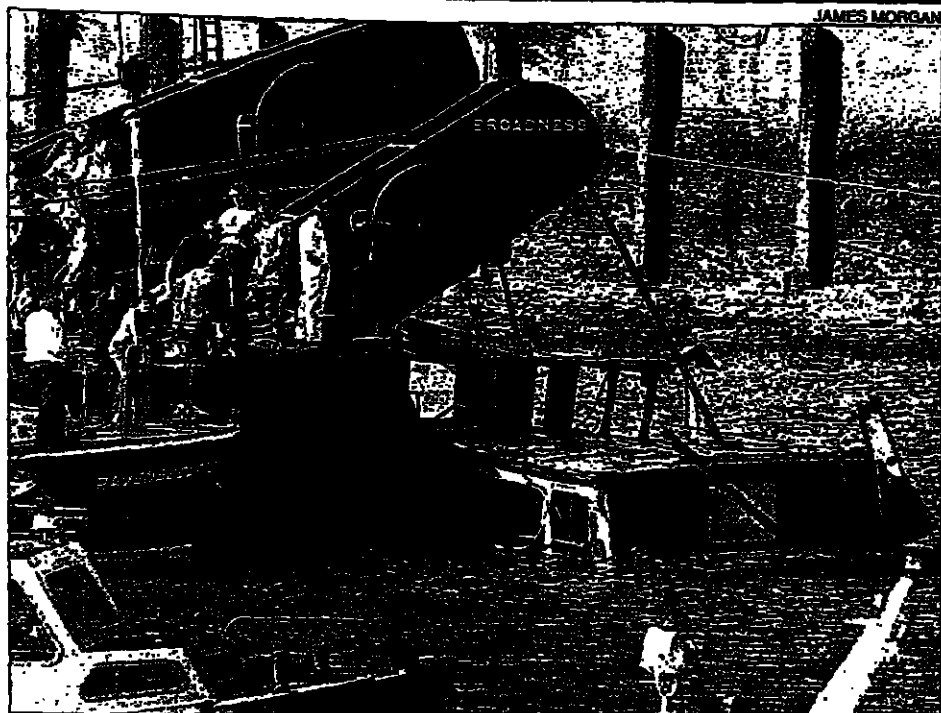
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP									
1989 High	Low	Company	Price		Div/Share	Yield		P/E	
			Bid	Offer		%	%		
280	278	Alley National	284	287	+8	12.7	4.4	5.9	
183	179	Bank of New York	187	189	-	12.7	4.4	5.9	
80	79	Bank of America	81	82	-	2.0	6.5	-	



Disaster trail: after the Marchioness sinking (left) and the Clapham rail crash (right), 20 months passed before any prosecutions were started.

Double-edged disaster

The slow and varied processes of the legal system can add to the trauma of a tragedy. Frances Gibb examines reforms that could ease relatives' grief

This week sees the second trial of Captain Douglas Henderson, the man in charge of the dredger Bowbelle when it collided with the Marchioness pleasure cruiser on the River Thames and 51 lives were lost. The trial comes about at the request of the Director of Public Prosecutions, after a jury in April failed to reach a verdict on whether Capt Henderson had kept a proper lookout.

In August two years will have passed since the tragedy, yet still the relatives of those who died await an explanation. There has been no public enquiry and the inquest has been adjourned, following the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute. Meanwhile, publication of the full report by the Marine Accident Investigation Board has been held up pending the trial's outcome.

The case is an outstanding example of how the legal system is ill equipped to cope with a large-scale disaster. However, it is not just the Marchioness. Survivors and relatives of those who died in other disasters - Zebrugga, Hillsborough, Clapham Junction - all feel to a greater or lesser extent anger and frustration at what they see as the legal system's inability to deliver justice.

A recent survey of 155 people carried out by BBC Radio Four for its series *Shock Waves* found the same complaint surfacing from relatives: that the procedures that come into play after a disaster are confused, contradictory and overlapping.

Although it is aimed at finding the truth, the mixture of the inquest, public enquiry, police or accident board investigation, and criminal and civil proceedings, leaves relatives angry and disillusioned, the survey found. "The most commonly voiced complaint was about the legal and official procedures," the programme makers say. "Some have told us that the aftermath is even more distressing than the first moments of the

disaster." This distress is exacerbated by the different procedures adopted every time.

Michael Napier, the secretary of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, who has represented many victims, says disasters have occurred in recent years with a "metronomic consistency", causing great suffering to victims and serious concern to the public.

Since the Bradford football stadium fire in 1985, disasters in Britain alone have claimed more than 1,055 lives. However, the "inconsistency" of the procedures adopted to deal with the aftermath is equally worrying, he says. So varied have these been, he adds, that there is "no discernible pattern that could be described as a system at all".

In the case of Zebrugga, the King's Cross fire, the Clapham Junction crash and the Hillsborough football crush, public enquiries under High Court judges were ordered. In the Marchioness disaster no public enquiry was ordered. Instead, there was an internal report by the Marine Accident Investigation Board.

In the Zebrugga ferry disaster, only after the coroner's inquest returned a verdict of unlawful killing were criminal proceedings brought.

A police investigation led to the Director of Public Prosecutions bringing charges of corporate manslaughter, but the trial collapsed after the prosecution evidence did not satisfy the legal test of manslaughter.

After the Clapham Junction rail crash, there was a public enquiry, followed, another nine months later, by the Director of Public Prosecutions' decision not to prosecute. The inquest, which had been adjourned pending this decision, then resumed and returned an unlawful killing verdict. Mr Napier asks

whether it is surprising, in the face of these incongruities, that there is public bewilderment at the procedures.

Against a background of increasing calls from lawyers for reform, the government has set up a working party of officials to look at the different kinds of enquiries and to see what can be done.

On the *Shock Waves* programme in April, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney

'Since the Bradford football stadium fire in 1985, disasters in Britain alone have claimed more than 1,055 lives'

general, said: "There is a very real understanding that many people think it is terribly inefficient, not to say oppressive, to have so many different investigations that sometimes happen one after the other in series."

There are various options for reform. The first is to strengthen the coroner's inquest, widening its scope so that it can take over the public enquiry role in such cases, and enabling the coroner to make a finding about what happened.

Against this, however, there could be objections that a coroner does not have the standing of a High Court judge in the public eye. Relatives may not be satisfied that somebody of sufficient weight has been appointed to enquire into the tragedy. A second option is to have a public enquiry headed by a high court judge which subsumes

the role of the inquest, something akin to the sheriff's enquiry in Scotland, as seen in the Lockerbie air disaster. Such an enquiry could also embrace any technical investigations, either marine or aviation.

Critics might say that such enquiries can become too large, unwieldy and impersonal, turning into a "grave train" for lawyers. Coroners handling disasters have tried to set in train a series of mini-inquests, giving every relative an individual hearing to learn about the last minutes of a loved one, how the body was found and any evidence of the cause of death.

This happened in most of the Marchioness cases and also after Clapham Junction. It means that, although the rest of the inquest, which deals with the technical aspects of the disaster, has been formally adjourned, people have at least had a hearing that meets a deep-felt need to know how their relatives died.

A possible compromise is for the coroner, as is now the case, to hold such mini-inquests on the personal details of every death, followed by a full public enquiry under a High Court judge.

Criminal proceedings could follow the public enquiry and relatives would not have had to wait for any explanation while the criminal process took its course. After both Hillsborough and Clapham Junction, 20 months elapsed before a decision on whether to prosecute was made. At the same time as looking for the right procedure, the government working party is likely to consider penalties. Corporate manslaughter charges have been found hard to sustain.

Some lawyers, such as David McIntosh, senior partner with law firm Davies Arnold Cooper, which has

acted for many defendants in disasters, favour a review of the laws on safety and emergency planning.

Charges could be devised to enable a "totting-up" of penalty points if a company is careless or reckless on matters of safety. Another idea is that, for corporate manslaughter, instead of the prosecution having to prove that one single individual was knowingly reckless, it would be possible to aggregate or add up instances of recklessness by directors or employers of a company to make the case.

A third proposal (and one hinted at by the Attorney-General) is for a new criminal offence that a company had operated an unsafe system of working. Finally, there have been calls for penalising guilty companies by enabling the civil courts to award heavy punitive damages.

In the meantime, relatives of the Marchioness victims must content themselves with Capt Henderson's trial. The way should then be clear for the publication of the marine investigation report. As a substitute for a public enquiry, and coming two years after the event, it will be of small comfort.

Competence, not colour or gender

A FEW decades ago, the Bar was described as an unfortunate profession by F.E. Smith, the first Lord Birkenhead. He said that about 1,500 practised at the Bar, that there was work for 1,000 and it was done by 500.

By 1960 this was still much the case. There was a shortage of work for new entrants and it was almost essential for the young barrister to have family money behind him or her.

Then on April 1 that year it all changed. Legal aid in criminal cases became available. That meant another 30,000 briefs a year would be delivered. Young men and women at universities other than Oxford and Cambridge, and later at polytechnics, began to appreciate that a living, albeit a modest one to start with, could be made at the Bar. The number of practitioners grew rapidly. At the end of the Fifties there had been just under 2,000. Now there are about 7,000.

Around the same time, barristers began questioning the basis on which their profession had been organised for more than a century. The Inns of Court were prime targets. By the end of that decade the inns had surrendered some of their powers and functions to a new body, the Senate of the Inns of Court, on which the Bar was strongly represented. More powers and functions were surrendered in the Seventies.

Many changes, most for the better, were made. There is a danger in reform, however. Reformers can be tempted to follow fashionable trends in unsuitable directions. This may now be happening to the Bar. Take the fashionable objective of the marketing of professional services. The Law Society has recommended it to solicitors, for whom it has been a benefit. The Bar Council has encouraged barristers to do the same. But to what good?

On May 14 in *The Times* there was an advertisement for the chambers of Lord Rippon of Hexham, QC. It was well laid out and in good taste. It gave the chambers' address, names of the barristers and a summary of the kind of work they did. It must have been expensive.

Any member of the public needing to consult a barrister would almost certainly have a solicitor and it would be his duty to retain for him a suitable barrister. However, solicitors do not read advertisements in *The Times* to find out whom they should retain for their clients. Either they know from their own experience or find out from other solicitors. What purpose did this advertisement serve?

Then there is the Bar Council's encouragement for the formation of jumbo-sized sets of chambers, some with 40 to 50

members, allegedly in the interests of efficiency, and for the old-style barrister's clerk to be replaced by a director of administration. There is a danger in this, particularly for young barristers.

The good clerks in the past, the Leslie Bowkers, the Matthews Robinsons, the Arthur Smiths and the Stanley Hopkins, were misnamed as clerks. They performed the functions of an actor's agent, ensuring their barristers got into the right work, at the right fee and at the right time. They were able to spot talent and assess how it would develop. They had to know their barristers, listen to them on their feet and pick up and assess the gossip about them that they heard in the coffee room of the crypt in the law courts and from solicitors' managing clerks.

The new-style directors of administration, because of the size of their chambers, will lack this knowledge. Concern is also being shown by the Bar Council over the careers of women and coloured barristers. This is admirable, provided it does not become nannying. Proposals to the council are in danger of doing just this. They are likely to include monitoring the number of women at the Bar, applications to chambers, interviewing techniques by other barristers, distribution of work by clerks and maternity leave. The authors of these ideas overlook what leads to success at the Bar. When members of the public need a barrister as an advocate they expect their solicitors to find a competent one and solicitors who have any regard for their clients' interests try to do so. Competence as an advocate is a scarce talent. Those who have it attract work; those who do not tend to be briefless.

Now that the prejudice against women at the Bar has been overcome (and it has), solicitors will look for whoever has the requisite degree of competence. It will not matter whether the chosen one is a woman or coloured. In the law, as in commerce, market forces are powerful. Many of those who seek to further the interests of women at the Bar forget that not all women who are called want, in the end, a career in the profession.

Nowadays many more women want a career than 30 years ago, but there must still be many who find that being a mother and housewife is a better way of life than frequent travelling after an early morning rise to distant courts, with a bag full of law books, waiting for a case to come on all morning and then making submissions to a difficult judge.

● The author was a Lord Justice of Appeal from 1972 to 1986



BRIEF
SIR FREDERICK LAWTON

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Second black judge appointed

BRITAIN'S second black circuit judge has just been appointed. Judge Anura Cooray, who was born in Sri Lanka in 1936, is used to being in the headlines. In 1982 he was appointed the first black metropolitan stipendiary magistrate. Life at the Bar for black, or Asian, barristers is much easier now than when he was called in 1963. At that time there were few black or Asian barristers practising in England. "To get a good pupillage, let alone a seat in chambers, was virtually impossible," he says.



Judge Cooray: on the circuit. "One could hardly get past the clerk." Even then, budding barristers had to pay their pupil masters 100 guineas. "They were polite, but simply were not prepared to take in someone from my ethnic background." His luck changed, he says, when he met the late William Wells, QC, "about the only person pre-

INNS AND OUTS

pared to help me". Judge Cooray then joined him at 3 Middle Temple Lane and he began to build his practice. Later he moved to 1 Gray's Inn Square and became deputy head there.

Out of court

LINDSEY Grieg, the founder and editor of *The Lawyer* magazine, is leaving. The *Lawyer*, launched five years ago, has found a successful niche for itself. Under Mr Grieg, it has pioneered much of the change in attitude to the role of the press. While the "it is not doing the profession any good" attitude can still be found lurking in dark corners, most lawyers have embraced the brave new world.

Nick Gillies, the senior reporter, says: "We will miss Lindsey, but the magazine is now established and Lindsey is more of an entrepreneur than administrator." Mr Grieg will leave in September to pursue other interests.

Spoiled ballot

DESPITE their daily dealings with official papers, solicitors, it seems, are just as bad as other voters when it comes to ballot papers. Of the 1,353 votes cast for the Yorkshire constituency and announced at last week's Law Society annual meeting, 45 ballot papers were rejected. Of these 25 came in too late, 18 were unsigned, one person voted for both candidates and

another for neither candidate. The ballot was won by Jeremy Shulman, the former chairman of the Young Solicitors' Group, with 818 votes.

Fast movers

THE recession has brought a plague of shop squatters but these unlawful occupiers of retail premises are about to meet their nemesis. Donaldsons, the property agent, has joined forces with Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens and Simon Olswang & Co, the legal firms, to campaign for a reduction in the huge length of time it takes to enforce summary possession orders once they have been obtained. The group has asked the court procedure committee to give the courts discretion to allow certified bailiffs to enforce writs of possession.

To build up the pressure, the group invites anybody who has had problems removing commercial squatters to send details to Carol Peet, at Denton Hall, 5 Chancery Lane, London EC4V 1BU.

Strike record

IN HIS article on proposals to tighten charity laws last week, Andrew Phillips mentioned that 4,713 new charities were formed last year. What he did not refer to was the record 749 charities that the Charity Commissioners struck off the register last year, and the new computer system that makes it

possible to collect information on charities much more quickly than previously.

The commissioners, perhaps expecting an extended role if the current proposals reach the statute books, are trying to get details of all the 170,000 existing charities and to convert hundreds of existing law of which they might be guilty. They have employed a firm of surveyors to help out with what is proving a herculean task.

Many small charities appear to be pleased to have been contacted by the commission after many years. Others are proving remarkably difficult to find. One surveyor asked a woman for details of a particular charity and she denied all knowledge of it. Two days and many telephone calls later, the surveyor traced the charity to the woman's house. Her husband admitted being the charity's correspondent but confessed he and his wife were not on speaking terms.

Natural law

DOUBTERS of Herbert Smith's new environmental law department should read the list of partners. The department rejoices in the services of partners Ros Sparrow, Trevor Turtle and David Brock (as in badge). Were they chosen for their expertise, or their environmentally friendly names? If so, why were partners Edward Greeno, Charles Plant, Robin Privett and Brian Woolf not brought in as well? We can only hope that assistant Andrew Tortois-shell works for Mr Turtle.

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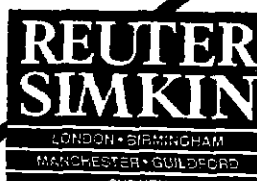
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Why judges should not play doctors

A mother's claim for compensation after her child was born disabled should have been allowed, Dr Michael Arnheim argues

When she was pregnant, Lorna Rance went for an ultrasound scan to Cuckfield Hospital, West Sussex, where four photographs were taken. A month later, twenty-five and a half weeks into her pregnancy, Mrs Rance went for another scan, when the process was repeated. The radiographer was sufficiently alerted by what she saw to mark her report form "foetal spine" - a reference to the possibility of spina bifida.

The radiologist in charge of the department considered his assistant's suspicions the next day but decided not to take the matter further, writing on the form: "No conclusive evidence of abnormality." Mr and Mrs Rance were told nothing about these suspicions and when their baby was born with spina bifida on September 13 both suffered great shock and distress. Looking after a severely handicapped child affected their lives profoundly and forced Mrs Rance to give up her job as a solicitor.

The Rances took the Mid-Downs Health Authority to court, claiming the hospital had been negligent in not informing them of the doubts on the scan. They said that, had they known the baby had spina bifida, they would have terminated the pregnancy.

A clear case of professional

negligence? Not at all. The judge said it would have been a criminal offence in the circumstances to terminate the pregnancy.

The earliest date the operation could have been performed in practice, he found, was when the age of the foetus was 27 weeks and one day. It was this one day that made all the difference, he said.

Section 1 of the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 made it a criminal offence to terminate a pregnancy once a foetus was "capable of being born alive", after 28 weeks. This question took up more of the judge's time than any other, and it was largely on this point that the Rances lost the case.

Besides the specific mention of the figure of 28 weeks in the act, there are several other reasons why I am perplexed by this decision.

There was a week and a half between the crucial scan and the judge's 27-week cut-off point. Why could the operation not have been performed during this period?

Even if it would have been a criminal offence to terminate the pregnancy any later than 27 weeks, this applied only inside the UK. Since April, however, the cut-off point has become 24 weeks, but up until birth for handicapped and some other category foetuses. If Mrs Rance had had an abortion in Sweden she would not have been



The author is a practising barrister and a law lecturer

Solicitors get set for a star performance

Firms with an eye to the future are teaching partners and trainees how to do advocacy work. One practice is even using videos

How far the rights of solicitors to appear as advocates will be extended is still unclear, but the profession meanwhile is continuing to invest in beefing up its advocacy skills. At the end of last month, Robert Hill, the director of advocacy training at the College of Law at York, held the latest in a new series of advocacy "continuing education" courses for solicitors.

The Lord Chancellor's advisory committee is the body at the centre of the decisions on advocacy, or rights of audience, and members of the committee recently visited the popular York course.

Whether the committee was impressed remains a secret. However, what is clear is that a new generation of solicitor advocates is emerging that will have few anxieties about its ability to appear effectively before judge and jury.

"Advocacy skills are essentially the same at whatever level they are applied," Mr Hill says. "We are finding no difficulty in attracting solicitors on to our courses, and those who come are relishing the potentially wider role of advocacy open to them. I think they see jury trials in the crown courts as being a natural development."

Claire Sandbrook, a partner with Burchell & Ruston, the London law firm, says the course was stimulating. "It was the most enjoyable I have ever attended under the continuing education scheme," she says. "It is so important for solicitors to understand the correct approach in making applications to the bench, particularly if they are to have rights of audience in the future."

Mr Hill is convinced that, in the long run, rights of audience are

bound to be substantially enlarged. Having studied the systems in the United States and Canada, he sees no reason why a similar one should not operate in Britain.

London solicitors S.J. Berwin have been joined by Richard Slowe, a barrister with 15 years' experience, who is providing what the firm describes as "an advocacy capacity" to back up his solicitor colleagues.

Mr Slowe's appointment last year caused a stir by seemingly

'It is important for solicitors to understand the correct approach in making applications to the bench, particularly if they are to have rights of audience'

jumping the gun on any changes that might emerge from the Lord Chancellor's department. Mr Slowe has already made a significant impact on the way the firm operates. Interlocutory injunctions have been obtained much faster through Mr Slowe, who has also acted as an "in-house junior" in cases that have needed a QC.

"This has saved substantial costs and been welcomed by the silks as a way of providing a closer working relationship with us than might have been the case," Mr Slowe says. The firm has been able to settle more pleadings in-house,

and this saves time and money for the client.

Looking ahead, the Berwin firm expects its in-house advocacy department might handle shorter trials if allowed to do so. Longer, more complex cases would still require the firm to brief a silk and one junior, although the second junior could come from the firm's advocacy department.

That, however, is for the future. A large number of firms are pressing ahead with the training of their young solicitors to ensure that their basic advocacy skills are sharpened for routine appearances before judges in chambers.

Nabarro Nathanson, the London firm, is making training videos in its own studios to show solicitors how to do it - and how not to do it. Using a series of simulations, the firm's latest video illustrates how easy it is for unprepared solicitors to get matters horribly wrong. By failing to check documents, not understanding the basis of one's argument and failing to grasp the proper procedures, an inexperienced solicitor can wreak havoc on a client's case.

"It is amazing how ill-trained some solicitors are when they first appear," says Helena Twist, of Nabarro Nathanson. "Our training seeks to ensure that they have fully mastered the basics and are confident in what they must say and do."

The Law Society's new legal practice course, which starts in 1993-4, will ensure that, for the first time, all trainees will have gained some advocacy skills. By then their scope for advocacy may have grown considerably.

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We are looking for a young solicitor to deal with the Conveyancing of the Corporation's substantial property interests. The post offers the opportunity for gaining excellent commercial experience.

The Corporation's offices are located within easy access of a number of Central London Line Termini, including Liverpool Street and Cannon Street Stations.

Benefits include generous holidays, staff luncheon facilities and interest free loan for British Rail/London transport annual season tickets.

If you wish to discuss informally the details of the post, then please contact The City Solicitor on 071-260 1660. Application forms and further details can be obtained from Glenn Smith on 071-260 1696 or by writing to:

Comptroller and City Solicitor, P.O. Box 270 Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ.
Closing date for completed application forms: 2nd August 1991.



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Eurotunnel is the operating company of the first fixed link between Great Britain and France, due to come into service in 1993. Using the most advanced technology, this transportation system will provide an unparalleled 24 hour service to both the public and industry, operating to the highest standards of safety and efficiency.

Our Legal Department will make a vital contribution to the successful implementation of the system, and we are now seeking to strengthen our team with the following key appointments.

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Project Division – based Sutton

Reporting to the Head of Legal Services, Project Division, you will advise senior management on all construction related issues.

In particular, you will be responsible for the legal aspects of the relationship between Eurotunnel and the Contractor, co-ordinating the input from various external counsellors, and dealing with any claims or litigations which may arise.

A qualified barrister or solicitor, you should have at least 5 years' experience in a similar role, ideally related to a civil engineering environment. Please quote reference ET/DJ/PID.

For both positions, we are seeking individuals of the highest calibre, who can demonstrate enthusiasm, flexibility and long term potential. The ability to communicate in both French and English would be an advantage.

In addition to salary, we offer an attractive benefits package.

To apply, please write with full CV to: Denis Besse, Eurotunnel, Victoria Plaza, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0ST.

Finance Department – based London

Reporting to the Head of Legal Services, Corporate, you will provide legal advice on all aspects of the company's financial activities.

This will involve the negotiation and drafting of documentation for equity or debt instruments such as syndicated loans for project finance, as well as monitoring compliance with listing regulations and implementing capital market transactions.

A qualified barrister or solicitor, you should have 5-10 years' experience in either private practice, or the law department of a bank or major plc. Please quote reference ET/DJ/FIN.

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Please contact: Mrs. Mary Stacey, Personnel Department, Durnford Ford Solicitors, Administration Centre, 51 Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1BE. Telephone: (0424) 442442



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We are looking for a Solicitor or Barrister to fill a new post created to enable the Legal Section to deal more effectively with an increasing work load predominantly in the contractual field, which has arisen largely due to the introduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering legislation. Applicants should have a good knowledge of contract law, and ability to advise on contractual matters and experience in the drafting of contract documents.

Experience in local government, whilst not essential, would be an advantage.

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If you would like an informal discussion about the post please contact Mrs. Ann Morgan, Solicitor to the Council on (0923) 776611 ext. 1675. Job description and application form are available from the Personnel Services, Three Rivers District Council, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Herts. Telephone (0923) 776611 ext. 417.

Closing date for applications is 9 August 1991.

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Qualifiers decided for the Open Championship

Moody shines on a wet and wild day for early-birds

By JOHN HENNESSY



THE four qualifying competitions for the Open Championship, which starts on Thursday at Royal Birkdale, took a violent twist yesterday. Daybreak brought with it wild, wet and windy weather over the Birkdale Hills, and many well-founded hopes were blown away.

Those unfortunate players who had to tee off early trudged into the clubhouse later with drooping shoulders, muttering imprecations. They feared that the weather would advantage the later starters.

Howard Clark, a seasoned professional, said: "I wouldn't send a dog out in this, never mind playing golf. That was the longest five hours of my life."

The fears proved well founded, as the wind and the scores steadily declined. Even so, Chris Moody's 62 at Southport and Ainsdale came like a bolt from the blue, though his experience last year might have prepared him. Then, he scored a course-record 62 at Penryn.

Moody, born at Uxbridge, is 37 and has won only once in the course of 15 years on the European Tour.

Everything he touched yesterday turned to gold. Only once did he seem in any danger of dropping a shot, when he was 60 yards short at the 16th, but he pitched to four feet and stole yet another birdie, his fifth, to be followed by a sixth at the last.

The two long holes going out had yielded eagles with a seven-iron to 20 feet at the (520 yards) 2nd and a nine-iron to 15 feet at the 7th (480 yards).

Clark took 76 at West Lancashire, five over par, but his excellent 69 on Sunday and a total of 145 easily carried him through to the tournament proper. He has lost his long game recently and it was this, in alliance with gusty winds, that caused him to drop shots at six holes.

Jim Rutledge, of Canada, suffered a similar experience at Hillsdale. "The course is ten shots harder today and I took all of them," he said after a 77 to go with his 67. The wind was so strong in the morning that the ball frequently moved on the greens. It took six attempts before Rutledge could make it sit beside his marker on the 13th green.

A number of players gave up long before the 17th, notably John Huston of the United States. Having dropped seven shots in the first seven holes, he drove into a bush at the eighth, walked straight into the clubhouse and out again for Manchester Airport. He told David Llewellyn, a playing partner, that he was "freezing cold, underpaid, fed up and desperate to go home."

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